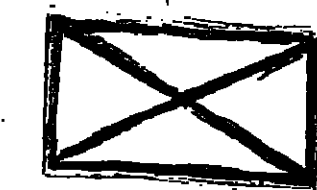


Pope issues peace message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pope John Paul II issued a message to the world for 1989 in celebration of "World Year of the Bible." In a message entitled, "To Build Peace, Respect Minorities," the Pope stressed the right of every people to exist and called for an end to all forms of violence, including "overt or indirect genocide." A copy of the message was made available to the Jordan Times. It said the right to exist could be taken away from any people lose a vital element like their land and face the loss of their own culture — a situation that might emerge as a result of the enforcement of laws which do not recognise the rights of minorities to use their own language, beliefs and culture. The Pope said: "Today, fundamental human rights are enshrined in many international and national declarations. However, essential as these juridical instruments may be, they are still not enough to overcome deep-seated attitudes of prejudice and distrust or to eliminate ways of thinking which lead to actions directed against minority groups. The translation of law into behaviour constitutes a long and slow process, specially with a view to eradicating such attitudes."



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي.

Gorbachev warns opponents of reform

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev said Sunday that his programme of reforms had taken decisive steps but had so far failed to alleviate economic difficulties and was still being threatened by conservative groups. Gorbachev, in a televised New Year address, also told the Soviet people that Moscow had contributed to improved international relations in the past year and the establishment of a "new vision of the world." The Soviet leader said he could not present a rosy picture of the progress of his "perestroika" programme of economic and political reforms as changes were "not coming as fast as we would like them to. We made a decisive step in promoting democracy and openness and in shedding command-and-administer methods, but every now and then these efforts run into the resistance of conservative anti-perestroika forces." Gorbachev said that despite improvements in productivity and in the provision of housing and social services in 1988, the results remained unsatisfactory. "Shortages and other difficulties in our daily lives are still making themselves felt," he said. "Demand still outstrips supply, especially when it comes to quality goods."

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King graduates officers

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Saturday visited a Royal Jordanian Air Force base (photo above) where he presented certificates to a batch of graduate Air Force officers. The King also watched a military exercise by Air Force pilots. Upon arrival at the base, the King was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Hussein, and a number of Air Force officers. The King was accompanied by the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year.

AROUND THE WORLD...

SAS reports threat over Arafat visit

STOCKHOLM (R) — Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) said Saturday it had received a threat to blow up one of its planes on an internal flight following the visit to Sweden earlier this month by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The threat, contained in a letter sent to a Swedish newspaper Friday, read: "Within three weeks an SAS internal flight will be blown up because of Arafat's visit" to Sweden. Sweden arranged a Stockholm meeting in early December between Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and American Jews.

Tunisian soldier kills 2 colleagues

TUNIS (R) — A Tunisian soldier, angered at a minor punishment, shot dead two colleagues standing guard at the main gate of Bab Saadoun barracks in west Tunis, local newspapers reported Saturday. They said the soldier, named as Mohammad Ibn Khemais Ghali, commandeered a passing car to escape but was caught and will be court-martialled.

Court rearraigns Palme suspect

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A 41-year-old Swede suspected of killing Sweden's late premier Olof Palme was ordered kept in detention for further questioning Saturday. Stockholm district court approved prosecutors demand the suspect Christer Pettersson be held until Jan. 13 awaiting formal charges. He was arrested Dec. 14 and arraigned two days later, after a hunt lasting almost three years. Pettersson pleaded innocent through his public counsel and asked to be released. But after a hearing lasting less than 10 minutes behind closed doors, the court said it approved chief prosecutor Anders Hellin's request formal charges be postponed until Jan. 13 while the state builds a case.

Niger's ex-premier takes over as OIC chief

JEDDAH (AP) — Hamid Al Gaid, former prime minister of Niger, takes over Sunday as secretary-general of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). He replaces Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, a former foreign minister of Pakistan, who has held the post since 1985. Gaid, 47, will be the sixth official to head the Jeddah-based OIC since it was formed in 1971 as the umbrella organisation for Muslim nations to promote Islamic solidarity and cooperation. He has wide experience in handling Islamic problems and is a veteran diplomat with a background in finance.

Petition against Cairo trial

CAIRO (AP) — Leaders of opposition political parties announced Saturday an effort to stop the trial of 20 men charged with attacks against U.S. and Israeli diplomats. A son of Gamal Abdul Nasser, Egypt's first president, is among the defendants, alleged members of a group called Egypt's Revolution. Khaled Mohieddine, head of the National Union Progressive Party, said the National Committee for Defence of Egypt's Revolution will collect signatures on a petition asking President Hosni Mubarak to intercede in the case. He said the petition would demand an end to the trial, scheduled to resume Tuesday after a two-month adjournment, and release of all defendants.

Dan-Air flight returns safely to Gatwick

LONDON (AP) — A Dan-Air jetliner with 268 passengers on board returned safely to Gatwick airport near London after smoke was spotted in the galley during a flight to the Canary Islands, the airline said Saturday. The airport south of London was put on full emergency Friday night after cabin crew on Dan-Air Flight 1802 smelled something burning at the front of the Airbus A300, where food is stored, the airline said. The smoke was spotted about 15 minutes after take-off, the airline said. The plane was spotted about 15 minutes after take-off, the airline said. The smoke was spotted about 15 minutes after take-off, the airline said. The plane was spotted about 15 minutes after take-off, the airline said.

'U.S. approached PLO for help'

KUWAIT (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is considering a U.S. request for help to track down those who bombed the Pan Am airliner that crashed over Scotland last week killing 270 people, the Al Seyassah daily reported Saturday. Quoting an unidentified Palestinian source, the paper said the U.S. request was addressed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during talks "between the two sides in an Arab capital over the past two days." It did not elaborate. The source said the Americans asked help "in providing investigation committee with... information that may lead to uncovering those responsible" for the Pan Am disaster. He was quoted as saying the U.S. request came in response to a PLO memorandum saying the U.S. administration, urging it to consider the possible involvement of Israel's secret service, Mossad, in the bombing and sabotage a crucial U.S.-PLO dialogue that began in mid-December.

Cabinet endorses JD 1.035b budget for '89

Total revenues JD 913.2m • JD 251m for defence and security • JD 209.7m for servicing loans • JD 154.4m for economic development • JD 118m for social services • Deficit to be covered through savings in expenditure, improvements in revenues and loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed a JD 1,035.4 million budget for 1989 — nearly JD 40 million less than the 1988 budget — carrying a deficit of JD 122.2 million against a deficit of JD 69.9 million in the previous year.

According to the 1989 budget figures, total revenues will be JD 913.2 million of which local revenues will be JD 547.5 million coming from taxes and customs duty (among other items JD 37.6 million in income tax and JD 155 million in customs), and JD 225 million as external financial assistance of which JD 207.5 million is expected to be Arab aid. Other revenues are JD 37.6 million as "instalment repayment of loans" and JD 103 million in economic and technical assistance (including developmental loans). The total expenditure was estimated at JD 1,035,386,000 of which JD 688.9 million will be recurrent and JD 243.5 million will be capital expenditure in addition to the JD 103 million in developmental projects to be financed as indicated above.

Of the recurrent expenditure, JD 251.5 million will be for defence and public security and civil defence, JD 209.7 million for loans and interest on loans, JD 154.4 million for economic de-

velopment, JD 118 million for social services, JD 14.4 million for cultural and information services and JD 30.7 million for transport and telecommunications. According to the Cabinet statement which announced the budget, the deficit of JD 122.2 million will be covered through savings in expenditure, improvements in revenues and internal and external loans.

Decree approves budget

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving the draft budget for the year 1989.

The statement included 12 articles explaining the means of expenditure, and assigns the prime minister and Cabinet to execute the provisions of the budget law. Presenting the budget, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said the budget was based on His Majesty King Hussein's address at the national development meeting held here last month and it reflects the economic, financial, monetary and economic policies of the government and aims at helping the country to have more reliance on local resources.

The government, Odeh said, will strictly abide by the figures included in the budget and will halt all expenditure on new services and infrastructure projects and will not seek loans for non-productive projects. He said public expenditure would be directed towards increasing national production and reducing the deficit in the budget. "Jordan has now overcome the critical stage and is now witnessing the positive effects of the government's recent economic, monetary and financial measures designed to stimulate investment, rationalise consumption and increase exports," Odeh said. The minister attributed the deficit in the budget to a decline in revenues resulting from the failure by Arab countries with the exception of Saudi Arabia to honour their financial commitments to Jordan in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions. The minister noted that despite the resilience of the Jordanian economy it still faces imbalances

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(Continued on page 2)



Dr. Hanna Odeh

Mubarak demands Shamir flexibility

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Saturday as saying he was willing to visit Israel only if Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir showed flexibility on a proposed international Middle East peace conference.

"Shamir has said no to the international conference and that his country will not concede one inch from the land it occupies. On what basis then shall I go to Israel?" the afternoon newspaper Al Massa quoted him as saying.

"Shamir should make clear what he has to offer (to solve) the problem before the visit could take place," Mubarak said. "There should be some flexibility in the Israeli position and agreement on the international conference..."

Mubarak said earlier this month he was prepared to go to Israel if this led to a just peace in the Middle East and Israeli officials have said they are discussing the possibility of a visit.

Khalaf: No truce

A PLO leader said Saturday that Palestinians completely re-

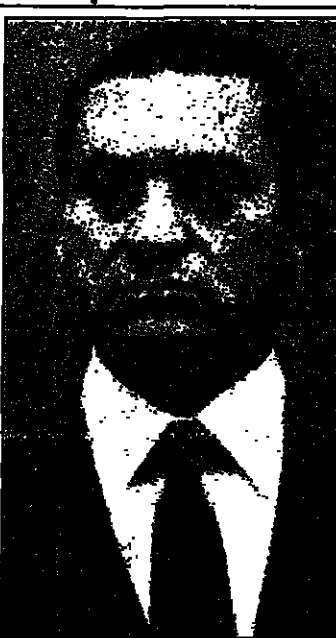
But senior Egyptian officials said this week a visit would only take place if Israel agreed to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) something it has vowed never to do.

Mubarak told Al Massa that Egyptian-Israeli contacts at lower levels "are in existence and the dialogue has not been ruptured."

Mubarak did not mention the PLO in the interview, but the Egyptian position always has been that the organisation should participate in any peace talks.

Mohammad Bassiouni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, told reporters later he had briefed Israeli officials on Mubarak's views on a possible visit.

"Mubarak is willing to meet any personality in the world, whether in a foreign country or here in Egypt, if this leads to progress in the drive for peace," he said.



Hosni Mubarak

jected any truce in their uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Fateh, was speaking on arrival in Qatar for celebrations to mark the 24th anniversary of Fateh's founding.

The Qatar News Agency quoted Khalaf as saying any suggestion of a truce in the uprising was totally unacceptable.

Palestinian and Israeli sources had said leaders of the uprising floated the idea of a conditional truce in exchange for Israeli concessions, such as the release of detainees and free municipal elections.

The PLO representative in Riyadh, Rafiq Al Natsha, told the Qatar agency that Arafat, now visiting Saudi Arabia, would hoist the Palestinian flag over a Palestinian embassy there Sunday.

Saudi Arabia announced Wednesday that it would upgrade the PLO's office in Riyadh to an embassy as of Jan. 1.

2 Palestinians killed, 14 wounded in W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian during clashes in a West Bank village Saturday, and a 14-year-old Palestinian boy died of wounds sustained in an earlier confrontation, the army said.

At least 14 Palestinians were wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse hundreds of West Bank villagers attending the boy's funeral, doctors said.

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, residents observed a general strike called by the fundamentalist group Hamas.

In the West Bank village Beit Rima near Ramallah, residents attacked an army patrol, an army spokesman said. Troops opened

fire, killing one man, he said, but did not give further details.

Officials at Ramallah hospital said they know one from Beit Rima was brought there, and it was not clear what happened to the body.

In Arab Jerusalem, Anwar Buhti of the West Bank village Shuweikah died early Saturday at Mukassed hospital, doctors said. Buhti was shot in the head during a clash with troops Dec. 7.

In Shuweikah, hundreds of residents, some of them masked, joined Buhti's funeral procession, witnesses said. They chanted nationalist slogans, and some hoisted black flags of mourning and Palestinian flags.

Troops opened fire to disperse the crowd, wounding 12

Shuweikah residents ranging in age from 16 to 31, hospital officials said.

The army later imposed a curfew on Shuweikah, 65 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

Saturday's strike was called by Hamas in solidarity with prisoners and those expelled.

Thirteen Gaza residents are awaiting expulsion in Gaza jails and detention camps. Israeli authorities said they could be expelled at any time.

The army confined about 400,000 of the 650,000 residents of Gaza to their homes Saturday and deployed troops heavily to stem protests Sunday, the

(Continued on page 4)

Sudanese premier seeks president's resignation

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi sought the resignation of the head of state Saturday as riot police were ordered to maintain guard on key buildings in Khartoum after a nationwide strike and days of unrest.

Swat Al Umma newspaper said Mahdi asked for the resignation of Supreme Council President and head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani, a member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which quit the government Wednesday.

Hundreds of thousands of people went back to work in the capital Saturday after striking in protest at price rises which the government rescinded Thursday, three days after imposing them.

Telex and telephone lines reopened after being cut by the strike. Khartoum international

airport reopened Friday night after a two-day closure.

Swat Al Umma, the official paper of Mahdi's Umma Party, said Mahdi asked for Mirghani's resignation in a letter to DUP leader Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani.

Mahdi also wanted parliament to end its recess ahead the scheduled date of Jan. 16, the paper said.

The DUP quit the government in protest at the price hikes and at parliament's rejection last week of a DUP plan aimed at ending a five-year-old civil war in the south.

Police with machine-guns and tear-gas canisters Saturday remained on guard outside the cabinet's offices and other riot police were stationed at sensitive points elsewhere in the city. Tens of thousands of people



Sadeq Al Mahdi

took to the streets after the price rises were announced Monday. Some also protested at the government's failure peacefully to end the rebellion by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south.

In Cairo, travellers arriving by air from Khartoum said Saturday the city was returning to normal after days of chaos.

India, Pakistan sign non-aggression pact

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India signed a pact Saturday not to attack each other's nuclear facilities and the young prime ministers of the traditionally hostile countries said they were now on the path to peaceful relations.

"An extremely important and significant step has been taken today to improve relations between India and Pakistan," Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, 35, told a joint news conference with Rajiv Gandhi of India.

"We hope this visit will help normalise the situation between our two countries," said Gandhi, 44, on the first working visit to Pakistan by an Indian prime minister for 28 years.

The nuclear non-aggression pact was the first agreement in 16 years between the two countries, which have fought three wars since becoming independent from Britain in 1947 and whose relations have been, at best, frosty.

"I think that in both our countries there is a groundswell for peace and it is the endeavour of both democratically-elected governments of India and Pakistan to work for defused tensions," said Bhutto.

The last agreement between

the two countries was signed in the Indian hill town of Simla in 1972 by Gandhi's mother Indira and Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, both then prime ministers of their countries.

The accord was meant to plot a path for improved relations after India intervened to help East Pakistan fight for its independence of Pakistan and become Bangladesh.

Instead, mutual suspicion continued and deepened on India's side during the 11 years of rule in Pakistan by military president Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, which ended when he was killed in a mysterious air crash in August.

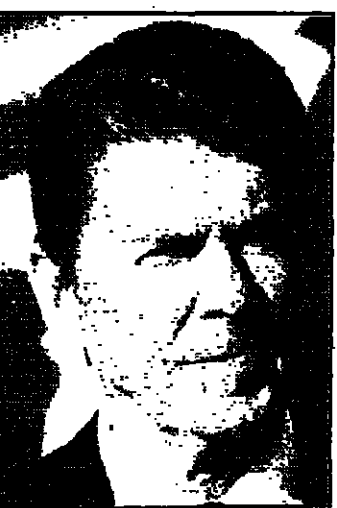
Benazir Bhutto became prime minister Dec. 2 after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the most seats in a general election and Indian officials said they saw an opening for better dealings with an elected government in Islamabad.

Gandhi came to Islamabad to attend a summit of South Asian leaders, but Bhutto held out hope of an exchange of visits in 1989.

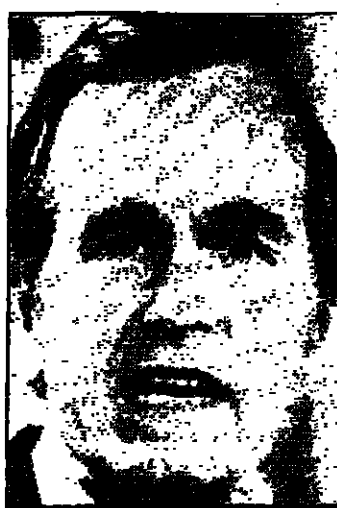
Each prime minister had invited the other to pay an official



Prime ministers Rajiv Gandhi of India and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan meet in Islamabad



Ronald Reagan



George Bush

(Continued on page 4)



Afghan rebel fighters with a captured Soviet tank

Soviets to observe Afghan truce

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet troops will join Afghan government forces in observing a unilateral ceasefire from Sunday in their war against Afghan guerrillas, the Soviet Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The Pakistan-based rebels have dismissed the ceasefire as a ruse designed to ensure the survival of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul of President Najibullah. Najibullah said Friday he had ordered Afghan government forces to refrain from fighting from Sunday unless attacked. He gave the rebels until Jan. 4 to respond.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said: "The Soviet Union fully supports this peace move of the Afghan leadership and, for its part, declared that all units of Soviet forces that remain in Afghanistan will observe a ceasefire from the same date."

The Soviet Union, whose forces moved into Afghanistan in December 1979, is committed under U.N.-sponsored accords signed in Geneva last April to withdrawing its troops by Feb. 15.

Moscow has temporarily halted its withdrawal, charging the United States and Pakistan with violating the U.N.-sponsored accords by supplying the rebels with weapons. But U.S. State Department officials say they expect the Kremlin to remove its remaining 50,000-60,000 soldiers by the deadline.

Afghan problems with weapons in hand," the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement said.

"The alignment of forces is such that a continuation of hostilities would lead only to more bloodshed and unjustified loss of life and would add to the hardships and sufferings of the entire Afghan people."

The statement repeated Moscow's willingness to halt arms supplies to the Afghan government from Sunday if the United States stopped delivering weapons to the guerrillas.

"If the goodwill does not meet a constructive response, it will be clear to the whole world who bears the full responsibility for the continuation of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan," it said.

Najibullah said in a speech broadcast on the Kabul Radio he had ordered the ceasefire in response to a call by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Gorbachev called for an end to the fighting in a speech to the United Nations last month.

Leaders of the Afghan rebel alliance left Tehran Friday after apparently working out a joint strategy with Iranian-backed rivals aimed at toppling the Kabul regime and installing an Islamic government.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that the Pakistan-based guerrillas led by Burhanuddin Rabbani were seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Mohammad Karim Khalili, a leader of the Iran-based coalition.

The two rebel groups declared in a joint statement Tuesday, the ninth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, that they will not accept "any kind of ceasefire" until the Soviets have completed their withdrawal and Najibullah's government has

been toppled. Kabul Radio urged all guerrilla groups to observe the Jan. 1 truce "in order to take the first step to restore peace and safeguard the people's lives."

"If the opposition forces do not observe the ceasefire by Jan. 5, this will amount to a rejection of peace by them, and the Afghan armed forces will be obliged to take all decisive, reciprocal defensive measures to defend the people," the broadcast said.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Yuli Vorontsov, is expected to arrive in Tehran soon for his first face-to-face talks with the Iran-based Mujahideen, seeking a broad-based political framework for the post-withdrawal period.

He met Rabbani in Saudi Arabia last month for the first direct Soviet contact with any Mujahideen faction.

Pahlavi: Khomeini regime frantic about its future

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The heir to Iran's defunct throne said Friday that if Iranians were responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 it would prove that the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was "frantic about its future."

Pahlavi, the oldest son of Shah of Iran, issued a response to a television news organization's demand that the deposed monarch risk a return to Iran to represent a group of Guardians of the Revolution, which took over last week's dissident-led government.

Pahlavi denied any responsibility for the crash. "If this is true, it is clearly a free indication that Khomeini's terrorist agents are still hard at work around the globe," Pahlavi said.

"It is also another indication that the Khomeini regime, faced with growing popular resentment, is becoming increasingly frantic about its future," the statement said. It cited a recent wave of executions of dissidents as another example of the government's concern with opposition.

West Germany recently denied the 28-year-old Pahlavi permission to enter the country for a speaking engagement, after a request from Iranian authorities to West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

In his statement Friday, Reza Pahlavi said: "Thousands of my countrymen have been executed in recent weeks. Now it intends to still my voice, which is the voice of millions of Iranians."

"I am confident that the U.S. government as well as other governments dedicated to democratic values and principles of human rights will stand firm and will not surrender to terrorist pressure."

Earlier this month, Iran complained to the British Broadcasting Corporation against a broadcast by Pahlavi Dec. 2. Pahlavi lives at a palatial home in suburban Washington, on the same street as Saudi ambassador Prince Bandar and Senator Edward Kennedy. Also nearby are Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters.

Pahlavi, a trained jet fighter pilot, knows he is vulnerable to threats. "When you know you are the number one target of the number one terrorists in the world, that doesn't make you really very comfortable," said Pahlavi in a recent interview.

The young prince left Iran in 1978, eight months before his father was ousted by Khomeini's revolution. Pahlavi, who declared himself the legitimate monarch of Iran when his father died of cancer in 1980, has been rallying exiled supporters in recent months in the United States and Europe.



Reza Pahlavi

Iran when his father died of cancer in 1980, has been rallying exiled supporters in recent months in the United States and Europe. "If you believe in me as a leader, then help me," he told some 1,100 Iranians at a World Affairs Council dinner in Los Angeles three months ago. "The time has come. It's time to move."

Pahlavi, who has a degree in political science, wants to see the monarchy restored in his ancient land, with himself as head of state rather than head of government. He has cited Spain as an example of how he would like to fashion the monarchy in Iran.

Pahlavi's mother, Empress Fara Diba, and his three younger siblings, also live in the United States. The family fortune has been estimated as high as \$15 billion, including real estate in California.

Arab League sees new hope

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League said Saturday the return of Egypt to the Arab fold was imminent, giving new hope to Arabs at the start of the new year.

The league's secretary-general, Chadi Klibi, said the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, progress on the Palestinian question and rapprochement between North African states were other reasons for optimism.

"New avenues of hope now lie open before our nation ... with the imminent return of Egypt into the fold and her resumption of her great mission within the Arab Family," he said in a New Year message to Arabs.

All but three Arab countries — Lebanon, Libya and Syria — have resumed relations with Cairo, broken when it signed a treaty with Israel in 1979. But Egypt remains suspended from the Tunis-based league.

Arab diplomats say Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak may be invited to the next Arab League summit, although in theory Arab leaders should first meet and agree to readmit Egypt.

Klibi said the Arab-Israeli conflict still threatened peace and security in the Arab World but 1988 was a turning-point which had set the Arab Nation on a new track.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) adopted a new strategy this year in its campaign for an independent state, recognising Israel's right to exist alongside a Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

"All observers agreed that the PLO has spared no conceivable effort to promote a peaceful solution," Klibi said.

"But the question still arises whether Israel is prepared to demonstrate by deeds, and not only in words, its longstanding claim that it really wants peace," Klibi said.

The new year should provide the answer and also show whether the great powers will depart from their systematic pro-Israeli bias, he added.

French town rejoices over release of 2 captive girls

PARIS (AP) — Two French girls held hostage for 13 months celebrated a belated Christmas offered by their home town Friday.

"This is the end of a nightmare," Pascal Bertille, father of seven-year-old Marie-Laure and six-year-old Virginie, told hundreds of people gathered in the public square of Ollioules in southern France. "This is happiness."

The girls, held by the Palestinian Abu Nidal group, were handed over to French officials Thursday in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, six days after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called for their release.

The children's mother, Jacqueline Valente, five Belgians and a baby sister born in captivity remained in the hands of Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC). The group accuses them of spying for Israel.

Doctors at a Marseille hospital said Friday the girls were in good physical and psychological health.

The children and their father attended the town party in Ollioules, near the Mediterranean port of Toulon, before going off on vacation at an undisclosed location.

French officials said negotiations for the girls' release were "state to state" and that no conditions were made for their freedom.

The only exchange, Le Monde quoted officials as saying, was allowing Qadhafi to make a nice gesture.

Qadhafi called for the girls' release on Christmas Eve. Once freed, FRC, in a statement issued in Beirut, said the girls were a "gift to France" from the children of the year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

They were taken captive Nov. 8, 1987, when the Silco, an old sardine trawler turned yacht, was seized off the Gaza Strip, according to the captors' announcement.

U.S. rejects Libyan offer to open chemical plant for inspection

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States Friday rejected an offer by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to allow international inspection of a plant that allegedly produces chemical weapons.

The Libyan offer was made last week publicly by Qadhafi and in a message conveyed to the United States by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

The United States claimed it has evidence that the factory, which the Libyans call Pharma-150 is in fact on the verge of producing chemical weapons (CW). Libya says the newly built facility near the town of Rabia, 80 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, is a pharmaceutical plant.

"A one time inspection could not be conclusive in this regard," said the State Department's deputy spokesman, Phyllis Oakley. "A CW plant could easily be modified to appear as a legitimate industrial chemical plant such as a pharmaceutical or fertilizer facility."

President Ronald Reagan said last week that the United States had discussed with its allies possible military action against the plant, and had urged them to withhold technical expertise from the Libyans that could be used for chemical weapons production.

Companies from Italy, Japan and West Germany are believed to have helped Libya in building the plant or the adjacent industrial complex. Japan told the United States its nationals believed they were involved in the construction of a fertilizer plant.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief William Webster said recently that the Libyan plant was on the verge of production, and Oakley said Friday it was not yet operational.

The Libyan plant will be discussed next week at an international conference in Paris on plans to stem the proliferation of chemical weapons around the world. The U.S. delegation will be led by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Also on the Paris agenda are claims by South Korea that North Korea has chemical weapons capability.

Oakley said U.S. information shows the communist North does have limited chemical weapons capability based on equipment supplied by the Soviet Union.

But she said the United States could not confirm or deny the existence of production or storage facilities in the North because its most recent information was from 1986.

The United States does not have any indication that North Korea plans to use chemical weapons against its rival to the South, but the Pyongyang government has a good defence system against chemical weapons, Oakley said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian accusation upsets Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — An Egyptian newspaper's assertion that Israel's secret service Mossad was responsible for the bombing of a Pan Am jet was dismissed by Israel Friday as a "repugnant libel." The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhar said Friday that Israel was the most likely culprit. The jet crashed on the Scottish town of Lockerbie Dec. 21, killing all 259 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground. "Israel rejects the repugnant libel published in the Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhar," foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel said, adding that such articles did not contribute to the good relations between Israel and Egypt. "Israel is amazed by the fact that an Egyptian official newspaper has published an injurious article of this kind," he said. The article said Israel was the most likely suspect because it had an interest in harming the nascent dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "With Israel's record in plotting this kind of crime, which aims at eliciting suspicion toward Palestinian and Arab elements, the accusation can be immediately levelled at the real assailant, which benefits from blowing up the U.S. airliner," the newspaper said. "It is an inhuman and immoral method which the Mossad would not hesitate to commit without any remorse," it said.

Palestinians condemn Pan Am bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The director of the Palestine Affairs Center Friday condemned the destruction of Pan American Flight 103 as "a crime against humanity" and expressed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) willingness to join an international effort to combat such crimes. Hasan Abdul Rahman, the official, accused Israel of trying to exploit the incident in a bid to undermine recent overtures between the United States and the PLO to promote peace in the Middle East. "One should not discount the possibility of the Mossad's (Israeli intelligence) involvement in this incident," Rahman said. "There is a history of Israel's having used such methods to thwart Arab peace initiatives."

Lebanon protests Israeli air raid

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon Friday instructed its ambassador to the United Nations, Rashid Fakoury, to protest an Israeli air raid on South Lebanon Thursday in which eight militiamen were wounded. Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads the civilian cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, told Fakoury to " lodge an urgent, strongly-worded complaint against Israel's latest aggression." The raid by two helicopter gunships destroyed a command post used by the Amal militia in Bir Al Salasel near the village of Tibnin, 15 kilometres north of the Israeli border. It was Israel's 25th air strike against targets in Lebanon this year. By police count, Thursday's casualties raised the overall toll to 128 people killed and 356 wounded since Jan. 3.

N. Korea to boost ties with Iran

NICOSIA (R) — North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam, ending a five-day visit to Iran, said Friday Pyongyang would strengthen its relations with Tehran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. Communist North Korea developed close links with Islamic Iran during its eight-year war against Iraq, supplying weapons to the Iranian government. IRNA quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying said the two countries had agreed to expand cooperation in fisheries, shipbuilding, mining and oil exploration. Tehran Radio said North Korean External Economic Relations Minister Chong Song-Nam, who had arrived with Kim, stayed on to visit port and oil facilities at the Gulf port of Bushehr.

Police arrest 61 militants in Assiut

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Sixty-one Muslim militants were arrested after reports of attacks on students and murder threats against staff at Egypt's Assiut University, police sources said Saturday. Witnesses said heavily-armed riot police ringed the campus, 380 kilometres south of Cairo, where the sources said 13 students were detained Thursday and 48 more militants Saturday. The police sources also said precautions were being taken throughout Egypt to protect churches and mosques in case Muslim militants tried to create trouble during New Year celebrations. Assiut University President Abdul Razzak Hassan told reporters students who caused unrest might be expelled. Police detained 55 militant students last week in Assiut, a centre of Islamic fundamentalism. Al-Akhar newspaper said militants had attacked students with chains, jack-knives, batons and whips in 16 assaults in the town in the past 40 days.

Cabinet approves JD 1.0354b budget

(Continued from page 1)

caused by a larger services sector compared to the production sector and a deficit in the budget due to a drop in public revenues because of irregular Arab financial assistance and the inflated government expenditure to maintain national economic growth. He said the country faces a deficit in the balance of payments due to an increase in the Kingdom's expenditure over its revenues of foreign currency, servicing the foreign debt and the huge volume of imports and a decline in national exports to compete successfully in the external markets.

Qudus said the government was determined to build up a strong productive economy to cut on excessive spending, reduce imports, increase exports and develop self-reliance.

The government plans to maintain a balance between population and resources to ensure a fair distribution of development benefits to urban, rural and badia regions, and it will give greater attention to the land and the natural resources, water and the environment as well as tourism and will focus attention on agriculture is the basic process for economic development, the minister said.

He said everything possible would be done to ensure security and stability and the government

would seek to enhance the Armed Forces' capabilities.

The minister said that the government would give more attention to scientific and technological development and create the opportunity for creative work and boost the role of the private sector in the production process.

Furthermore, he said, the government will act in such a manner that contributes to economic integration within the Arab World.

India, Pakistan sign accord

(Continued from page 1)

visit. "I am hopeful that 1989 will see more exchanges between the two countries," Bhutto said.

The accord, and another to promote information, cultural, educational and art exchanges and joint archaeological explorations, were signed by foreign ministers in the presence of the two leaders.

Gandhi said serious problems still remained, among them Pakistan's nuclear programme which is widely believed capable of producing an atomic bomb. A dispute over the Siachen glacier, at 6,000 metres up in the Himalayas the world's highest battlefield, has frequently erupted into shooting.

Upon his return to New Delhi later Saturday Gandhi forecast a thaw in 40 years of frigid relations

Odeh said the government pays tribute to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's efforts through the regional development meetings which were climaxed with the Nov. 28 meeting under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The government, the minister added, is now conducting a study of the recommendations passed by these meetings before taking executive decisions for their implementation.

"I had very good talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto — very long talks," he told reporters at Delhi airport. "I felt that there is definitely a mood on both sides to try and get things back on track and normalise the situation between our two countries."

Gandhi made a clear comparison between Bhutto and her predecessor Zia, who was killed in a plane crash last August.

"I can also say with confidence that we believe PPP policies will be much better than the earlier policies on the more difficult areas," he said.

Gandhi said India was prepared to cut its military expenditure to cut its military expenditure, it there were progress on issues including ownership of Kashmir and Punjab.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Sami Al-Khatib 661373
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi 743500
Dr. Muhammad Al-Abadi 778954
Dr. Ahmed Al-Dagani 676543
Firdous Pharmacy 73336
Al-Azma Pharmacy 637055
Naroukh Pharmacy 623672
Al-Salam Pharmacy 636730

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 102, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 650001, 681111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Phone Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661401

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818153/2
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642862
Malhas, J. Amman 636141

MARKET PRICES

Upset lower price in \$/kg per kg.
Apple 301/401

AMMAN (R) — The decision to increase the price of wheat from 300 to 320 \$/tonne was a significant step towards the government's goal of reducing the cost of living for the people. The decision was announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and was expected to have a positive impact on the economy. The government has been working to reduce the cost of living for the people, and this decision is a significant step in that direction. The price of wheat is a major factor in the cost of living, and this decision will help to reduce the cost of living for the people. The government has been working to reduce the cost of living for the people, and this decision is a significant step in that direction.

Al Hussein congratulates Mirghani, Delamuraz and Castro

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Sudan's head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani on his country's Independence Day anniversary.

In his cable the King wished the Sudanese leader continued health and happiness and the Sudanese people further progress and prosperity.

The King sent a cable of congratulations to the newly elected president of Switzerland Jean-Pascal Delamuraz.

In his cable King Hussein expressed his appreciation of the constructive role played by Switzerland to advance the causes of peace and cooperation among nations of the world.

King Hussein referred to Switzerland's hosting of the European headquarters of the United Nations and a number of U.N. agencies, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which, he said, provides proof of the country's positive contributions over the years.

The King also sent a cable to Cuba's President Fidel Castro expressing his good wishes on the country's National Day.

NPC forms general secretariat

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday attended a meeting by the National Population Commission (NPC) during which the formation of the commission's general secretariat was announced.

Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin, who chairs the commission, voiced the members' gratitude to Princess Basma for basing the commission at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The Princess, who is QAF's board of trustees president, was praised for her efforts to help establish the commission's general secretariat and her continued support for the commission's activities.

Princess Basma and the commission members heard a report by the commission's deputy chairman and secretary general Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber on the steps taken for the establishment of the commission, in accordance with an agreement with the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

Abdul Jaber said that the general secretariat has embarked on collecting documents on population projects being carried out by different ministries in cooperation with UNFPA.

The commission members reviewed studies on projects scheduled to be carried out in 1989, endorsed the formation of a technical committee to help the commission and discussed a working paper on Jordan's population



HRH Princess Basma

strategies since 1976.

The national commission, which was first set up in 1973, has been reformed to take charge of national population policies that would serve economic and social development.

On the commission are representatives of the Ministries of

Higher Education, Planning, Education, Health, Information, the Department of Statistics, the Civil Registration Department, the Passports Department, the Armed Forces, Jordanian universities, the General Union of Jordanian Women, the Ministry of Awqaf and the QAF.

Arriving director reports on 1988 activities

New economic measures raise number of traded shares

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The increased activity witnessed by the Amman Financial Market (AFM) — especially during the last quarter of 1988, represented mainly by a 15.2 per cent increase in the number of shares traded for 1988 — is likely to continue in the future thanks to the government's economic, financial and monetary measures supporting Jordan's various national companies, according to AFM's Acting Director Ibrahim Al Bilbeisi.

Speaking at a press conference marking the end of the AFM fiscal year, Bilbeisi said that 114,214,113 shares were traded in 1988 — the largest number since the market was established in 1978. The daily average number of shares traded for 1988 amounted to 461,000 compared to 411,000 in 1987, an increase of 12.2 per cent, he said.

In contrast, the trading volume for 1988 marked a 10.5 per cent decrease from JD 148,178.27 in 1987 to JD 132,619.426 this year. The average daily turnover amounted to JD 535,000 in 1988, compared to JD 615,000 in 1987, a 13 per cent decrease, according to the end-of-the-year statistics released by the AFM.

The number of contracts at the market increased by 0.5 per cent from 120,073 in 1987 to 120,666 for this year, which is also the highest number of contracts since the establishment of the AFM. The average daily contracts for 1988 amounted to 487, compared to 498 in 1987, a decrease of 2.2 per cent.

Bilbeisi said that during the month of December, the number of shares traded amounted to 18,208,839, 15.9 per cent of the number of shares traded for the whole of 1988. That, according to Bilbeisi, is also the highest number since the establishment of the market.

Also during December, the trading volume amounted to JD 27,862,483, or 21 per cent of the trading volume for 1988. The number of contracts for that month amounted to 17,955, forming 14.9 per cent of contracts for

the whole year. Approximately 523,000 bonds were traded in 1988, compared to 97,074 in 1987, an increase of 439.8 per cent. The market value of the traded bonds amounted to JD 16,656,964 compared to JD 1,047,321 in 1987.

Among the factors behind this increased activity in bond trading, Bilbeisi said, are measures taken by the market's administrative committee, reducing the commission collected by dealers on bonds trading. The commission was reduced from JD 3 per 1,000 to JD 1 per 1,000.

Other factors include the prevention of banks from dealing with development bonds and treasury bills through the AFM, as well as the creation, through Reuters, of a special market through which banks, private and public shareholding financial companies can take part in the bonds market.

Bilbeisi said the closing price index for 1988 was 124.6 points compared to 117.3 points in 1987, an increase of 7.3 points or 6.2 per cent.

The volume of trading for the secondary market (regular, parallel and off the floor) amounted to JD 171,424,297 for 1988, compared to JD 167,307,733 in 1987, a 2.5 per cent increase. Since 1983, which according to Bilbeisi is considered a "prosperous" year for the Jordanian financial market, the volume of trading had increased by 10.2 per cent.

Bilbeisi cited the following factors behind the growth and increased activity in the financial market, most notably in the last quarter of 1988: The protection of some industries by prohibiting imports of similar competitive products and imposing protective tariffs; the cancelling of license and registration requirements for industrial and agricultural projects; the encouragement of ex-

ports; the amendments to the investment law; the postponement of infrastructure-building projects and the freezing of government tenders; reducing government support for public institutions, in addition to the lifting of tax and customs tariffs on imported commodities.

Bilbeisi said the government's monetary policy had also contributed to the AFM's growth and increased activity.

He outlined the government's monetary policy as follows: managed floatation of the dinar and interest rates; allowing citizens to hold foreign currency accounts; cancelling accounts held by money changers overseas as well as the settlement of costs of imported goods to the free-zone areas in foreign currencies.

He added that other measures, such as prohibiting the import of accessories, such as cars and appliances, and imposing a 10 per cent tax on hotels and restaurants, had also contributed to the AFM's increased activity.

"These measures will have positive effects on promoting national exports and thus in the Kingdom's foreign reserves," Bilbeisi said.

He also mentioned the economic recovery by inviting Soli-

Department considers issuing new vehicle plates

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Director of Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Department Brigadier Mahmoud Abu Hammour has said that the issue of using four digit plates was presented to the concerned authorities so as to replace the current vehicle plate law number 30 issued in 1985.

He added that this project is likely to go into effect in mid-1990.

He said that effective Sunday tanker trucks will be banned from running on the streets of the Kingdom if their weights exceed the limits defined in the cabinets' decision number 90 issued in 1985. He also urged land transport companies and truck owners to abide by the regulations.

Referring to storage of information at the licensing department, he said that computers will be introduced to fulfil this purpose in mid-1989.

He said new drivers licence form have been introduced and that they will be used soon.

"No licences will be issued to vehicles unless they contain safety belts," he said, adding that temporary licences, valid for one year, may be issued to non-Jordanians which will be renewable.

He said people under twenty and over eighteen may acquire temporary driving licences valid for one year. He indicated that the department is keen to quickly and efficiently present services. He noted that the department's revenues in 1988 amounted to JD 17 million.



Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi speaks to reporters on cattle survey in Jordan (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Ministry issues cattle 'ownership documents' to get accurate statistics

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Agriculture Sunday urged cattle breeders to report accurately the number of animals they own so that the country's supply of red meat could be based on accurate official figures of the country's animal resources.

The ministry's Undersecretary Dr. Salem Al Lawzi said cattle "ownership documents" were being issued by the ministry for the purposes of obtaining accurate statistics on the availability of red meat in the country, as well as to register cattle vaccinations against current diseases.

"The government is serious in its efforts to develop this sector and to lessen the gap between the amount of imported meat and the amount that is produced locally," Lawzi declared.

He said Jordan imports 80 per cent of its consumption need in red meat. In 1987, Jordan produced 7,964 tonnes of red meat while 43,813 tonnes were consumed.

Lawzi said accurate figures on animals in the country would enable decision makers to plan their policies accurately. "We are basing our predictions and expectations on these numbers," he said.

He explained that some farmers register their cattle in the "ownership document" more than once so that they obtain more animal feed. To that effect, he assured all farmers that sufficient quantities of fodder will soon be available, at reasonable prices, to cover their cattle's needs.

He warned that committees from the ministry would pay surprise visits to cattle breeders to inspect whether the number of cattle they report is accurate or not and whether those farmers misuse their "ownership documents."

Lawzi said that farmers who inaccurately report the number of the cattle will be punished. He did not elaborate. "We all strive to increase the animal riches of this country and to decrease the amount of imported meat," Lawzi said, adding that Jordan is self-sufficient in its demand for white meat.

In 1987, Jordan produced 63,000 tonnes of poultry meat, covering 98 per cent of its needs.

In terms of animal vaccinations, Lawzi said Jordan currently produces 170 million doses, 70 million of which are exported. Previously, he added, Jordan used to spend approximately JD 300,000 worth of vaccinations.

Cabinet approves registration of AWSC

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has approved the registration of the Arab Women Scientific Council (AWSC) as a national society affiliated to the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The council, which is chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, groups a number of non-Jordanian Arab personalities concerned with women's issues and women's participation in comprehensive development.

The decision to create the council was taken at a preliminary meeting held in Amman in October 1988 when the participants decided that its activities should centre on spreading awareness among the general public about the role that women can play in developing the Arab society, and help solve problems that impede cultural and social advancement.

QAF took a series of decisions over the past two months to establish the council and held contacts with a number of Arab, regional and international organisations concerned with women's issues.

The council is due to hold its first board meeting in March 1989.

Malhas opens course to orient doctors on school health services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas opened Saturday a training course for doctors employed by the Health Ministry to orient them on means of carrying out school health services.

A total of 45 doctors affiliated to health centres in different provinces are taking part in the week-long course, according to Dr. Mohammad Ali Halabi, director of the ministry's School Health Services Department.

Halabi said the course, the first of its kind by the ministry, was planned following a decision to incorporate primary health care services with the school health services sometime ago.

Specialists from the Ministry of Health and the private sector will be giving lectures on school health services and on sanitation, spreading health education among students and periodic

medical examinations, according to Dr. Halabi.

He said that the 45 participants will deal with vaccination issues, coordinating Ministry of Health policies with those of the Ministry of Education and deal with infectious diseases.

In addition, he said, the doctors will spread awareness among school children on means of protecting their health, avoiding the illness disease, and the Ministry of Health will coordinate the Ministry of Education and deal with infectious diseases, as well as the danger of smoking.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

VISITORS TO EGYPT: Jordanians visiting Egypt are required to fill out forms at the border posts stating the exact amounts of foreign currency in their possession so that they can be allowed to take out what remains of it upon leaving the country, according to a government statement here Saturday. The statement said that Egyptian authorities do not allow any person to carry in or out of Egyptian territory more than 20 pounds in Egyptian currency. (Petra)

BALQA CDD CHANGES PREMISES: The Civil Defence Department in Balqa has moved its premises to a site near the Zay cross section, according to an announcement in Salt Saturday. It added the department telephone numbers are now: 553701, 553702, 553704, 553705, 553706. (Petra)

ZARQA STUDENTS VISIT RJGC: Zarqa Community College students Saturday visited the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) and met with officials and department heads. The visitors toured different sections and were briefed on the centre's operations and programmes. (Petra)

MADABA EXAM HALLS INSPECTED: Madaba District Governor Khalil Khreisat Saturday made an inspection tour of examination halls in a number of regions around Madaba city. Students are taking the first Tawjihi examination session which ends Jan. 9. (Petra)

TRANSPORT COMPANY BOARD TO MEET: The Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company general assembly is due to convene in Baghdad Jan. 10 to discuss operational plans and the 1989 annual budget. The general assembly normally meets under the co-chairmanship of ministers of transport in Jordan and Iraq. (Petra)

PLANTING FOREST TREES: The Balqa Governorate Agriculture Department has undertaken the necessary measure to plant forest trees in a 2,000-dunum area at the regions of Wasfi Tal Forest and Ira. This is part of the plan to plant an area of 4,000 dunums a year. The department also opened five-kilometre roads in the said areas at the cost of JD 3,340. (Petra)

JEA FIXES DAMAGES AFTER STORM: The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in Ma'an Governorate has fixed the damages which the electric lines sustained in the regions of Wadi Mousa, Al Taybeh, Al Rajef, and Al Shobak in the wake of the snow storm and winds which hit the region. Damaged electric poles and lines in the regions of Al Juhair and Al Shammah are being fixed. (Petra)

PLANTING SAPLINGS IN MAAN: The Ma'an Agriculture Department has embarked on a plan to plant 258 types of saplings in regions of Al Aishiya, Ras Al Naqab, Al Hisha, Al Balata, and Al Rajif. The plan will be executed on an 8,860 dunums land. It will include planting of 20,000 forest saplings on both sides of roads and giving away 44,000 saplings. (Petra)

TRADE LICENCES: The Greater Amman Municipality announced Saturday that starting Sunday, it will renew and issue trade licence for 1989. This step, which continues till Feb. 28, comes as part of the decentralised administration policy which the municipality implements in order to save the citizens efforts at (Petra)

PSD postpones imposition of law to force car seat belts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has decided to postpone the imposition of regulations enforcing the use of safety seatbelts in all cars until Jan. 18, 1989 according to a report in Al Dustour daily Saturday.

The decision was taken to give sufficient time for a public awareness campaign on the use of belts and to allow car owners to install belts in their cars, the report said.

A government order was first

issued in 1983 ruling that car seat belts should be used along Jordanian roads inside and outside cities and urban regions but later the law was not enforced for unexplained reasons.

The law also provides for all cars to have seat belts installed in them to be eligible for registration and licence, and that fines will be imposed on car owners who do not conform to the regulations.

Centre for phonetics research opens at University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A centre for phonetics research opened Saturday at the University of Jordan to help teach Arabic to Jordanian children and non-Arabic speakers alike, and also to help rehabilitate people with communication disorders.

The government of Switzerland has pledged \$1 million worth of equipment to the project, which is located within the premises of the University of Jordan, according to the centre's deputy director.

He said Switzerland has also pledged to send teams of specialists to help instruct local staff on the centre's management and services.

The equipment installed in the centre included a mass computer to help carry out sound analysis and a laryngograph, which helps to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, study psycho-linguistics and the



University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Saturday inspects the equipment at the new phonetics centre (Petra photo)

effect of communication disorders on children's speech.

The equipment will also be employed to study sub-glottal air pressure and its effect on speech.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

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Let's save planet Earth

AS the year 1988 draws to a close, Jordan Times has chosen the following impassioned call by U.S. Senator Albert Gore for international fellowship to save planet Earth as its final editorial for 1988:

When I announced I was running for president, I said the greenhouse effect, the depletion of the ozone layer and the global ecological crisis will, by the end of this election year, be recognised as the most serious issue facing this country and the world. Three days later, a George Will column that the globe, the naive of a politician who could imagine that Ruhollah Khomeini this kind would be politically salable, about its future was partly right and partly wrong. I was right

Pahlavani issue has, during this year, attained enormous and new recognition. But he was right, since it is any good politically. There are still barriers to action. Let me discuss five of them:

Number one, there are areas of uncertainty about the greenhouse effect and the dire nature of the ecological crisis, which are seized upon as excuses for inaction. This is a psychological problem common to all humanity. If strong responses are needed and yet there is some residual uncertainty about whether you are going to have to make those responses, the natural psychological tendency is to magnify the uncertainty and say, "Well, maybe we won't really have to face up to it."

But the fact that we face an ecological crisis without any precedent in historic times is no longer a matter of any dispute worthy of recognition. And those who, for the purpose of maintaining balance in debate, take the contrarian view that there is significant uncertainty about whether it's real are hurting our ability to respond.

The second barrier to political action is an unwillingness to believe that something so far outside the bounds of historical experience can, in fact, be occurring. To put it another way, this set of problems sounds like the plot of a bad science-fiction movie. People automatically assume it can't be real.

The third political barrier is the assumption that it will be easier and more sensible to adapt to whatever climate change occurs than it will be to prevent the crisis. But the change could come so swiftly that adaptation will be all but impossible.

The fourth barrier is the lack of widespread awareness among the peoples of the world about the nature of the problem. Most political leaders, let alone their public, are unaware of what is happening and how severe it is. That must be changed.

The fifth barrier to political action is the knowledge that many of the ultimate solutions are almost unimaginably difficult. And since they are harder than anything we have done before, and the efforts may all come to naught anyway, why mess with them? Why not conserve our energy and just not even try? That is a formidable barrier, not least because the solutions require international cooperation on a scale that is totally unprecedented in history.

Those five barriers must be overcome before the political system reacts. The role of leadership is critical in spreading awareness, in framing solutions, in offering a vision of the future we want to create, as well as a vision of the nightmare we wish to avoid.

There is an old science experiment in which a frog is put into a pan of water, and the water is slowly heated to the boiling point. The frog sits there and boils because its nervous system will not react to the gradual increase. But if you boil the water first and then put the frog in, it immediately jumps out.

We are at an environmental boiling point right now. Is the destruction of one football-field's worth of forest every second enough to make the frog react and jump out of the pan? What will it take? If, as in a science-fiction movie, we had a giant invader from space clomping across the rain forests of the world with football field-size feet — going boom, boom, boom every second — would we react? That's essentially what is going on right now.

We saw the two whales trapped in the Arctic ice, struggling for air, and the world responded. The U.S. and the Soviet Union cooperated. Yet we see 40,000 babies starving every day, and we don't react. What is wrong with us?

There used to be a debate in the '70s about appropriate technology. Now the question is: Did God choose an appropriate technology when he gave human beings dominion over the earth? The jury is still out. And the answer has to come in our lifetime from the political system.

There are precedents. We made human sacrifice, once commonplace, obsolete. We made slavery obsolete. These things, just like changes in weather patterns, took a long period of time. But now, just as climate changes are telescoped into a very short period of time, changes in human thinking of a magnitude comparable to the changes that brought about the abolition of slavery must take place in one generation.

We know how to solve the problem. It will be unimaginably difficult. The cooperation required will be unprecedented. But we know what to do. What is required is a change in thinking and a change in the equilibrium of the world's political system.

Right now the political equilibrium is characterised by short-term policies at the expense of long-term policies. It is characterised by actions to confer national advantage at the expense of actions designed to promote global advantage.

Our challenges as political leaders is to come up with an agenda of solutions, which we are doing. But the larger challenge for all of us is to shift the world's political system into a new state of equilibrium, characterised by more cooperation, global agendas and a focus on the future. As General Omar Bradley said at the end of World War II, "It is time we steered by the stars and not by the lights of each passing ship."

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordanian economy in 1989

HOW will the Jordanian national economy fare in this 1989 year? What will be the exchange rate of the JD against the dollar or the Special Drawing Rights on Dec. 31, 1989, one year from now? Such questions are repeatedly addressed to me and other economic analysts almost on daily basis. Therefore, I have a ready short answer which will save me any embarrassment and compel the enquirer to smile, either intelligently or foolishly according to circumstances:

Results are of course dependent on the reasons. If you tell me how the Ministry of Finance will actually conduct fiscal policy during 1989, how the Central Bank will conduct the monetary policy, how the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Defence, Agriculture, Labour, Supplies, Planning etc. will manage the areas falling under their jurisdiction, if you tell me all that, I shall be more than happy to tell you what would happen to the Jordanian economy, and what the exchange rate of the JD is likely to be by the end of 1989.

My above answer implies that the future is not a predetermined fate about which we can do nothing. The future is a variety of

options, scenarios, and probabilities. If there is a fixed and known answer to the outcome of the Jordanian economy or the exchange rate of the floated JD in one or five years, the meaning would be that policies, measures and decisions that the government may make and implement, or make and does not implement, or does not make nor implement, are irrelevant, and do not change the outcome one way or another. Such an assumption is of course not true, and no one in his right mind may think otherwise.

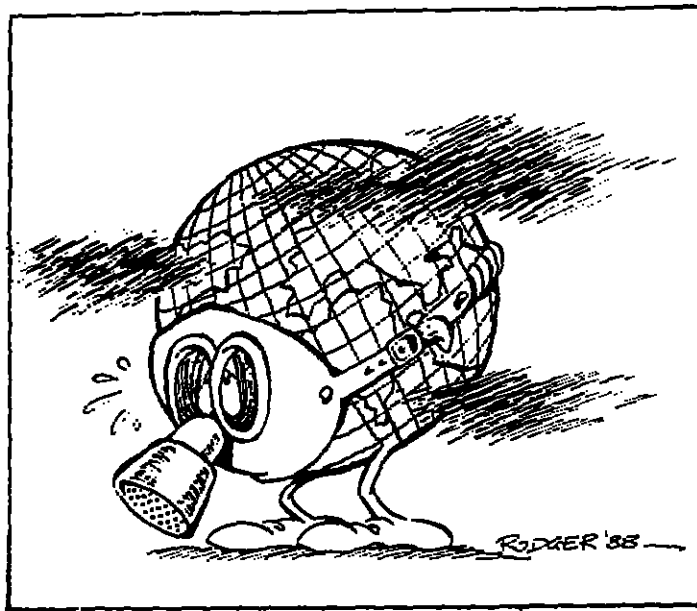
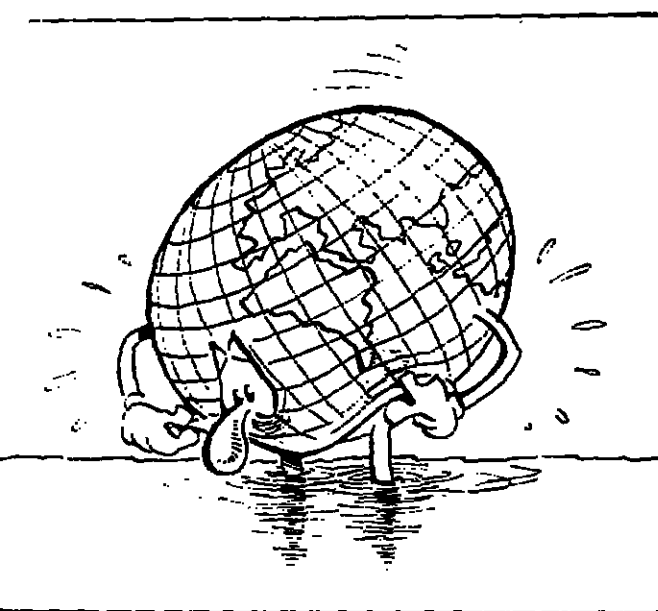
Instead of the question about the future outcome of the economy in one year or in five years, as if we have nothing to do to decide our own future or change it, it may be more productive to decide now on how we want the economy to look like in a year or in five years, and what are the practical and feasible objectives that we can and want to achieve during this period. The next step is to look for and formulate the policies, measures, decisions and practices which can lead to the objectives we want to achieve, or at least bring us closer to the targets and help us escape more decline or crisis and shocks.

In my humble view, all economic policies in 1989 should aim at

achieving stability. After the shock that we witnessed during 1988, when we finally faced the moment of truth, we now badly need the situation to settle down, and see a measure of stability in economic, financial and monetary areas. The public confidence should be restored, and both the public and private sectors will be able to resume progress and healthy growth, away from distortions and corruption. The stability of the exchange rate of the JD over the past five weeks is a good sign that things are under control and back to normal.

The most important mission for the upcoming stage of development is not only to agree on what should be done, but also to agree on what should not be done. What happened to us was not only a result of external circumstances and unfavourable developments in the world or in the region, but it was also the natural result of what we have done and are still doing to ourselves.

We have wanted the crisis of 1988, we worked hard to achieve it, we deserved it, and we got it!



LETTERS

'Save Our World'

The following letter was received by the Jordan Times from a collective group of 11-year-olds from St. Benedict School in Richmond, Virginia, who are trying to reach out to as many people in the world as possible on the occasion of the beginning of the New Year. Herebelow is the text of their message.

Dear citizens of the world,

We are the sixth grade students at St. Benedict School. St. Benedict School is a small school in Richmond, Virginia, the United States of America. We have a mission to "Save Our World." We have chosen this title because the initials spell SOW. One definition of SOW is to scatter seeds to grow. The letters we send are the "seeds" and we hope Peace will grow from our seeds.

When countries work together great things happen. In 1975 the United States and the Soviet Union linked together in space. That was just two countries working together. Imagine what would happen if one hundred and seventy-six countries worked together. To us this is the basis of peace. We, as the future leaders, think the present world leaders should encourage their countries to work together.

Our goal is to encourage this world and the people who live in it to have a better future. We hope for answers, and even results. We care about this world and all its people.

The Sixth Grade
 St. Benedict School
 P.O. Box 6793
 Richmond, Virginia 23230
 United States

2 Palestinians killed

(Continued from page 1)
 anniversary of the 1964 founding of the Fatah movement.

Troops shot and injured at least two other Palestinians in clashes near Hebron and Nablus in the West Bank, sources said. Clashes were reported in Bethlehem and Tpus villages.

The army clamped a curfew on about two-thirds of Gaza residents after violent demonstrations Friday sparked by the army killing of two Gazans the night before. A third Gazan was killed by soldiers in clashes later that day.

Mushab Dalout, 30, and Sami Erheem, 22, from Zeetoun district of Gaza City were killed by soldiers Friday. An army spokes-

man said the two were wanted "suspects" who were shot while trying to escape.

Zeetoun, Sheikh Radwan, five other Gaza districts and all eight Gaza refugee camps were under curfew Saturday.

At least 352 Palestinians have died in the year-long uprising. Leaders of the uprising have called for widespread protests on the Fatah anniversary.

Masked Palestinians Friday pasted up posters of Yasser Arafat around Gaza and hung Palestinian flags. They filled helium balloons and stocked fireworks for the planned celebrations.

The Court of Justice

By Rakan Al Majali

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the Court of Justice downtown Amman Thursday drew the attention of many Jordanians. Of course, the Prince had to make remarks not different from those that might come from any visitor to the old, dilapidated building which is located in the most important street of Amman — "King Hussein's Street."

In addition to the shabbiness of the building, visitors can see that no attention whatsoever was given to the furniture and the court's various rooms and halls. The present furniture has been there for the past decades, probably since the establishment of the building itself which is normally over-congested with people.

At the time of his visit, Prince Hassan enquired about a modern whitewashed building lying opposite to the Court of Justice building, and was told that it is a car park.

There is indeed no need for comment on this situation which is a real tragedy — to give more attention to a car park than the Court of Justice which houses the workplace of men of justice in our country.

One of the main problems encountered by visitors to the Court of Justice in Amman is the lack of a car park for the building, a fact which causes a shock to those summoned by the court for testimony or being involved in a court case. Reaching the court entails real trouble and staying inside the building for some time is a hard experience due to the lack of proper means of convenience. It is indeed pitiable to see lawyers who are supposed to visit the court every day, spending a good part of their day in it; and to see judges having to make do with such horrible conditions and the lack of modern libraries and means of documentation.

Therefore a decision taken upon Prince Hassan's initiative to ease pressure from the Court of Justice downtown Amman and to set up four courts in a number of districts of Amman should be regarded as a very positive step, similar to others taken earlier, to set up other specialised courts in other parts of the capital.

This time we are going to witness the movement of the Court of Justice, normally visited by the majority of people, to new locations; and therefore we can only hope that a sensible choice of the sites, and proper and convenient buildings with parking areas will help improve the image about the Court of Justice.

How much it would have been convenient and feasible to have such improvements had our attention been called to it during the "boom years." We could have set up a huge complex embodying all courts located at a suitable district with decent furniture appropriate and respectful of our men of justice. We hope to have such an opportunity in the future to erect such a huge edifice of justice that can remain as one of the most prominent monuments in our country.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Saturday wrote about the achievements in 1988 which it said included the declaration of the Palestine state, the victory of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. Jordan, it said, had been instrumental in helping to attain these successes through its endeavours worldwide and its backing of Arab brothers in Palestine and in Iraq. Jordan which spearheaded efforts to achieve consensus and agreements among the Arab leaders has continued to be a staunch supporter for all moves leading to peace in the Middle East, the paper noted. It said Jordan has from the start backed the Palestinian uprising, supported the PLO's moves in the international arena and severed ties with the West Bank thus paving the way for the declaration of the Palestine state and the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It concluded that Jordan has been very active in the past year shouldering additional responsibilities and backing Arab moves towards unity of ranks and towards confronting challenges at all levels.



A columnist in Al Ra'i daily wrote on Israel's desperate attempts to end the Palestinian uprising despite its knowledge that the oppressed people in the occupied territories are determined to regain their rights. In a desperate move the Israeli government is trying to lure the Palestinians to stop the revolt by promising elections within the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a deceptive gesture designed to help it achieve its objectives, the writer, Abdul Rahim Omar notes. He says that Israel wants elections without any interference from the Arab states and the United Nations and wants to see the Palestinians electing substitutes to the PLO and hopes that Egypt will serve as mediator in this evil game. What Israel wants from the Palestinians is a bait to their uprising which had been instrumental in calling world attention to the Palestine problem and wants to live in peace while continuing to hold on to the Arab lands, the writer adds. He says that the PLO's reply to such manoeuvres was loud and clear declaring determination to pursue the struggle until Israel accepts the idea of permanent peace based on justice.

Al Dastour daily commented on King Hussein's statement to Al Hawadeth magazine in which he called on the Arabs to convene an Arab summit meeting where issues like the return of Egypt to the Arab fold can be discussed. The paper said that the King, in his continued efforts to strengthen pan-Arab solidarity and in true commitment to serve Arab causes, is doing all he can to end differences among Arab leaders and pave the way for the creation of a strong Arab bloc capable of confronting the world economic and political developments. What is driving Jordan towards further steps in this direction is the very favourable situation now prevailing in the region as a result of concerted steps taken by the PLO in cooperation with Jordan and with backing from the rest of the Arab states, the paper noted. It concluded by saying that King Hussein seems to be confident that consensus and agreement among the Arabs will continue in the coming years so that national objectives can be attained.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also commented on the King's statements published in the London based Arabic magazine Al Hawadeth in which it said the King defined the general economic and political outlines for the coming state. In referring to the economic situation in Jordan the King expressed total satisfaction with the measures taken by the government and which he said would enable the country to face the coming year with more confidence. The paper referred to the past challenges and difficulties which Jordan had to overcome in the past and said that the King's projection for the future gives his people more confidence and more hope for further progress.

Reagan, Bush set to fight

(Continued from page 1)

off by Congress. Under the constitution, Congress has sole authority for allocating money.

Arms were sold to Iran in hopes of influencing the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian factions, even though the Reagan administration said it refused to deal with "terrorists."

Reagan's testimony could be important to North's defence, which is expected to centre on North's claim that he acted with the approval of his superiors.

Bush said he was "out of the loop" on the Iran-contra decisions. Both he and Reagan have separately said they were unaware of the diversion of funds.

Reagan's national security adviser, John Poindexter, resigned and North was fired in November 1986 when the scheme was uncovered.

North is charged with conspiring with Poindexter and two arms dealers, Albert Hakim and Richard Secord, a retired air force general, to divert more than \$12 million to the rebels.

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The Palestinian uprising (intifada) remained steadfast into its second year



Gorbachev, Reagan and Bush, men of power, men of peace?



Nicaragua's war dead increase in the conflict in Central America.

1988: Despite moves towards peace our world is still in danger

By Catherine Campbell
Reuter



Yasser Arafat declared a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and talked about peace with the world at the U.N.



Benazir Bhutto was elected Prime Minister of Muslim Pakistan, the times are changing.



In South Africa the fight against apartheid continued and claimed countless lives



Children in Sri Lanka were not spared when civil strife broke out

LONDON — Prospects for peace brightened in several parts of the world in 1988, but the year ended with a grim reminder of nature's power to ruin human lives.

An earthquake in Armenia on Dec. 7 killed 55,000 people and left half a million homeless, according to Soviet authorities.

Images of devastation were dominant at the end of a year which saw, on the bright side, a ceasefire in the eight-year-old Gulf war, and initiatives in other trouble spots including Afghanistan, Angola, Kampuchea and the Western Sahara.

Apart from Armenia, natural catastrophes took their toll in a number of countries from Bangladesh to Sudan.

On the political side, there was violence in Israeli-occupied territory, and popular upheavals and electoral surprises elsewhere. Nowhere was the political scene turned upside down so dramatically as in Pakistan where the sudden death of General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was followed by the election of his former rival's daughter as prime minister.

The Armenian earthquake not only caused massive casualties but also dealt a heavy blow to the strained Soviet economy, and cut short a moment of triumph for Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader, who rushed home to deal with the consequences of the earthquake, had scored a major diplomatic coup when he announced at the United Nations in New York unilateral Soviet force withdrawals from Eastern Europe and a 10 per cent cut in the armed forces.

He also used his U.S. visit to bid farewell to President Ronald Reagan and touch base with President-elect George Bush, who defeated Democrat Michael Dukakis in the November election.

Gorbachev's "new thinking" foreign policy made rapid headway on the world stage in 1988 but at home problems mounted, posing major challenges to his "perestroika" reform programme.

In a flurry of diplomacy at the start of the year, he achieved acceptable conditions for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and an international agreement was signed in Geneva in April. Half his troops were out by mid-August and the remainder were due to leave by February 15, 1989.

Ironically, Armenia and its quarrel with neighbouring Azerbaijan over a tiny mountainous region had presented Gorbachev with his first big challenge of the year.

National sentiment also surged in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Reagan visited Moscow at the end of May, and the intermediate-range nuclear forces missile treaty the two leaders had signed the previous December in Washington went into effect.

For the first time, the superpowers began destroying weaponry — and under the supervision of inspection teams from the other side who toured once top-secret bases.

There were significant diplomatic moves in other areas.



Armenians were left stunned and homeless after an earthquake claimed over 100,000 lives and left their country in ruins

too, by the United States. With little more than a month left for the Reagan administration, it bequeathed to Bush a major diplomatic opening by taking the politically sensitive decision to resume contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Peace

The Dec. 22 signing of a peace accord providing for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and independence for neighbouring Namibia, which South Africa ruled in defiance of the United Nations, was a plus for U.S. mediation.

In the Middle East, quiet, persistent diplomacy by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar helped silence the guns in the Iran-Iraq war.

While peace talks in Geneva have so far failed to produce a final settlement, for millions of Iranians and Iraqis the Aug. 20 ceasefire was a welcome end to eight years of agony.

Elsewhere in the region, Palestinians armed with stones challenged Israeli intransigence. The intifada in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip took Israel and the PLO surprise.

It projected the 41-year-old campaign for a Palestinian homeland onto television screens worldwide and propelled PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat into proclaiming a Palestinian state, recognising Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

More than 70 countries recognised the Palestinian state, and Washington decided to end a

13-year-old ban on official contacts with the PLO and to hold ice-breaking talks in Tunis.

An Israeli election failed to produce an outright victor, but after seven weeks of negotiating the rightist Likud Party and Labour joined forces in a coalition which Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said would be dedicated to fighting the diplomatic gains of the PLO.

Israel made one of its biggest raids deep into Lebanon in six years, sending airborne commandos to attack Palestinian camps just south of Beirut on Dec. 9.

In Lebanon, 17 Westerners are still being held hostage. A two-week hijacking, the longest ever, took place in April when a Kuwaiti airliner with members of the state's ruling family on board was seized on a flight from Bangkok, forced to Mashhad in Iran, then Cyprus, and finally Algeria.

Unidentified gunmen, demanding the release of 17 Arabs jailed in Kuwait for bomb attacks there in 1983, killed 20 Kuwaiti passengers before freeing 71 other hostages.

Africa

South Africa stayed in the headlines. President P.W. Botha reaffirmed commitment to the partial reform of apartheid race laws, but his government used emergency powers to ban more than 20 dissident groups including the United Democratic Front.

Botha moved an ailing Nelson Mandela, the black nationalist leader who turned 70 in June after 26 years in prison, to a

comfortable bungalow in the grounds of a modern prison.

In South Sudan thousands of people succumbed to famine, disease and the five-year-old civil war between government troops and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Relief workers said the true figure of how many died may never be known.

Asia

In Asia, 1988 was marked by upheavals, unexpected elections and a record attendance of nations at the Olympics in Seoul.

A cyclone in Bangladesh on Nov. 29 killed an estimated 3,000 people.

In Pakistan military president Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was killed in an unexplained air crash in August.

Benazir Bhutto, daughter of a former prime minister who was overthrown by Zia and later executed, was named prime minister after an election in November. She became the first woman elected to head a modern Muslim nation.

India saw heightened violence in its troubled northern states with Sikh extremists pressing their campaign for an independent homeland. Nearly 2,500 people were killed in the separatist violence.

In Sri Lanka, an Indian peace-keeping force appeared unable to suppress diehard Tamil separatist guerrillas in the northern areas of the island state. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the incumbent prime minister, won a presidential election in December.



Lebanon's civil war continued after presidential elections were indefinitely postponed

Burma was racked by a popular revolt against its socialist government, forcing two prime ministers to step down before the military moved in on Sept. 18 and took over.

More than 1,000 people died when troops reasserted control.

The four warring Kampuchean groups, along with Vietnam and non-communist Southeast Asian nations met for the first time in Indonesia in July. Another round of informal peace talks is scheduled in February in Jakarta.

The year also saw a breakthrough in the thawing relations between China and the Soviet Union. Qian Qichen became the first Chinese foreign minister to visit Moscow in nearly 30 years.

South Korea acted as host to a record 160 countries at the Olympic games in Seoul beginning in September amid a general attitude of goodwill.

Disasters

But controversy over drug use cast a shadow on the games. Canadian Ben Johnson was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal after traces of an anabolic steroid were found in his urine.

In Japan, Emperor Hirohito, 87, who has reigned for 61 years, was seriously ill for most of the year.

Latin American

In Latin America many of the continent's young democracies were rocked by violence. In Argentina the year began and ended with an army uprising as the uneasy relationship between the five-year-old democracy and the armed forces, which had ruled from 1976-83, boiled over into action.

Both mutinies were put down with minimal bloodshed.

In Chile, an Oct. 5 plebiscite on whether to give military President Augusto Pinochet a further eight years of rule resulted in 3.9 million of the seven million voters choosing a return to civilian government in March, 1990.

In Mexico elections in June resulted in the lowest majority ever for the ruling Revolutionary Party.

Peru suffered the worst economic crisis of the region. It saw inflation of over 2,000 per cent, frequent strikes, widespread shortages and soaring unemployment.

Central American presidents promised to end their region's guerrilla wars in 1988, but except in Nicaragua, where an uneasy ceasefire is still in place, the conflicts seem likely to grind on for years.

Eastern Europe

In East Europe, cracks in communist unity widened further as some states pressed on with reforms, some crawled and others refused to budge.

In Hungary, 1988 was a watershed year as veteran leader Janos Kadar was replaced by pragmatic Karoly Grosz and there was talk of a multi-party system and free elections.

In Czechoslovakia, new leader Milos Jakes charted a cautious course toward economic reform without major political liberalisation amid signs of rising public dissatisfaction.

Yugoslavia, a nonaligned com-

unist state, saw protests and power struggles. Millions joined unprecedented street protests over ethnic and economic grievances. There were more than 1,000 strikes over low pay and falling living standards.

In Poland, the banned Solidarity trade union re-emerged as a major power with the first two strike waves since martial law in 1981. The Communist authorities, anxious for opposition backing for speeded-up economic reforms, responded by inviting Solidarity to "round table" talks on Poland's future.

Disasters around the world

Throughout the year, disasters struck with cruel regularity, particularly heavily in Armenia, Bangladesh and Sudan — but also in other places all around the world. The following are some of the countries which suffered:

In Britain, 167 men died when blasts and fires ripped through the Piper Alpha North Sea oil platform in July.

On July 3 an Iran Air A-300 Airbus was blown from the sky by the USS Vincennes after U.S. seamen in the Gulf mistakenly identified the aircraft as an Iranian F-14 fighter plane. All 290 people on board were killed.

In West Germany 70 people died in August when an Italian stunt jet plunged into spectators at the U.S. Ramstein air base.

Hurricane Gilbert struck Jamaica Sept. 12, killing 45 people. Half the country's housing was destroyed or damaged and \$800 million-one billion worth of damage done.

A month later hurricane Joan swept into Mexico, causing at least 200 deaths and hundreds of millions of dollars damage.

In October the 2,855-ton ferry the Dona Marilyn sank off the Philippines, killing at least 120 people.

At least 730 people were killed when an earthquake devastated a remote area of Southwest China in November.

On Dec. 21 at least 273 people were believed killed when a Pan American jumbo jet disintegrated and crashed in flames into the Scottish border town of Lockerbie.

Almost everywhere it seemed, the toll of victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) continued to rise.

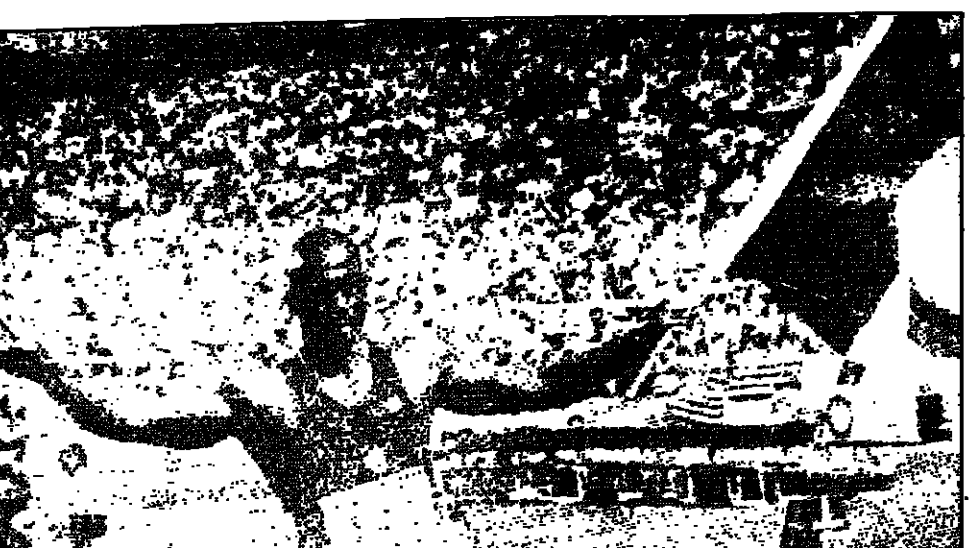
The World Health Organisation reported that the number of cases of the disease in the year ending on June 30 was 100,410, compared with 53,121 a year earlier.

WHO estimated the total number of AIDS cases at 150,000 and said an estimated five to 10 million people are carrying the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

However, there was fresh optimism in technology, at least for the super-powers.

The United States returned to manned space flight on Sept. 29, some 32 months after all seven astronauts aboard the Challenger shuttle were killed when it exploded.

The unmanned Soviet shuttle Buran made its maiden voyage in November. On Dec. 21, two Soviet cosmonauts returned to earth after spending a record 366 days in space.



Canada's Olympic hopeful Ben Johnson, brought shame to his country and the sports world, when it was discovered that he was using illegal steroids while competing at the 1988 Seoul Olympics



Demonstrations and a subsequent election brought the downfall of Augusto Pinochet's military government and gave hope of democracy to the Chilean people



A three man commando team claimed 11 lives and left 74 wounded on an attack against a cruise ship, near the Isle of Aegina, south of Athens

Saudi Arabia likely to issue new bonds to cover '89 deficit

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia is likely to turn to bonds again in 1989 to finance a budget deficit despite the reluctance of commercial banks to buy the instrument, bankers and economists said Saturday.

The borrowing, the kingdom's first in 25 years, has raised more than 30 billion riyals (\$8 billion) since it began in June, covering most of a 1988 budget deficit and slowing down a steady drain on foreign reserves.

"We see no change next year," said one Riyadh-based economist. "We assume they will want to borrow another 30 billion riyals."

But bankers say the bonds, offered in two to five-year maturities, have only had a lukewarm response from the kingdom's commercial banks, with two government agencies taking up most of the fortnightly 1.5 billion riyal (\$400 million) issues.

The country, due to announce its 1989 budget in the next few days, has seen its oil revenues fall from a peak of \$101 billion in 1981 to an estimated \$16 billion in

1988. Economists say they believe revenue will not pick up much in 1989 and may even fall, despite an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) accord last November to limit output and boost oil prices.

The drop in income has resulted in a series of huge budget deficits and painful spending cuts, with economists forecasting more of both in 1989. Until 1988, Riyadh went into its reserves to finance the deficits.

Bankers said the bonds have allowed the government to tap a local market flush with funds while letting it avoid politically sensitive dealings with foreign creditors, frowned upon by many Saudis because they deal in interest which is banned by Islam.

"But the bonds have been going badly from the banks' point of view," said one banker in Riyadh. "Banks have been taking up less than half — everything else goes to the Pension Fund and GOSI (General Organisation for Social Insurance)."

The instruments were initially offered only to Saudi banks and institutions but banks were later permitted to resell them to local investors.

Calling them "development bonds" the government said their return would be based on the profits of unnamed development projects although bankers say the yields have been fixed at between 25 to 50 points above the rates of U.S. treasury notes.

"Very possibly, we could see gold, silver and platinum taking out their 1988 lows in the first month of 1989," Sloane said.

"But I think things should start to look a little better in February and March."

He said the copper market "certainly has the possibility" of remaining strong, although prices above the Dec. 8 record high of \$1.6475 a pound appear doubtful.

"We are looking for extreme volatility in the next few weeks, simply based on continuing weather-related concerns, other supply concerns and the logistics of moving coffee from Central and South America," said Arthur Stevenson, an analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities Inc. in New York.

Stevenson said the sugar market probably would remain sluggish unless demand rose substantially, and he said the International Cocoa Organisation was unlikely to resolve problems that have led to a huge global surplus of cocoa.

With that caveat in mind, here are some predictions for commodity performance in the first quarter of the new year:

Coffee, sugar and cocoa — Precious metals prices will continue to slump early in the first quarter, based on the outlook for

low inflation, rising interest rates and a stronger dollar, said Craig Sloane, an analyst with Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. in New York.

Grain and soybean traders are watching the weather — which has been fairly dry for both the U.S. winter wheat crop and the Brazilian soybean crop — and looking ahead to the Agriculture Department's Jan. 13 supply-demand report. The report will indicate how many acres farmers intend to plant in 1989 following the severe drought and high prices of 1988.

"I think the soybean market is going to be interesting," said Cathy Leon, assistant vice president of grain futures trading with Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc. in New York. "My own expectation of soybean prices is

that they'll be moving higher."

Energy — Strong U.S. gasoline demand should continue to support gasoline futures prices but the direction of crude oil prices will be determined by the commitment of OPEC members to their new production quotas, said Peter Beutel, an analyst with Elders Futures Inc. in New York.

"Watch the United Arab Emirates," he said. "They have the potential to be pact-busters."

Nickel — Soaring nickel prices, now at their highest levels in eight months, will likely reach record peaks early in 1989, commodity analysts Shearson Lehman Hutton said Friday.

Panic has returned to the market on the back of renewed supply problems and strong demand from the stainless steel industry, the company's metals research team said in a report.

The stainless steel industry uses 50 per cent of world nickel production. "Our analysis suggests that the market is likely to move into severe shortage during the first quarter of 1989," the report said.

For the entire year, the company forecasts that Western

World use will outstrip by 7,000 tonnes projected total supply of 655,000 tons. It estimates the 1988 deficit at 55,000 tons.

Nickel was trading Friday at about \$16,600 a tonne on the London Metal Exchange, a 30 per cent increase since the start of December.

In March it reached a peak of \$23,900 the highest price ever paid for a metal on the exchange.

Nickel was in short supply then because of record demand from the stainless steel industry and a break in exports from the Dominican Republic.

Production is currently being disrupted in Indonesia, Brazil and Australia, making "an already tight market even tighter," the report said.

Demand for the metal has rebounded strongly, after falling off during September and October, and should remain at record levels at least until the middle of 1989, it said.

Canada is the West's biggest producer, accounting for 36 per cent of total 1987 output of 533,500 tonnes, according to latest figures from World Bureau of Metal Statistics.

It is followed by Australia, New Caledonia, Indonesia, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Colombia, Botswana, Brazil and Zimbabwe.

Irving Bank, Bank of N.Y. finalise merger — NEW YORK (AP) — One of the nation's longest and most bitter takeover battles formally ended Friday — the last business day of the year — with the \$1.48 billion merger of Irving Bank Corp. with Bank of New York Co. Inc.

Bank of New York said it expected that the principal banking subsidiaries of the two holding companies, the Bank of New York and Irving Trust Co., will be merged in the first half of 1989.

The two banks ended a year-long feud Oct. 7, when Irving's board of directors voted to end its resistance and drop all lawsuits and anti-takeover measures.

In return, Bank of New York sweetened its offer by about \$200 million by slightly increasing the stock portion of its bid and adding stock warrants.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board removed the last formal obstacle to the merger Nov. 28 by approving the deal. The board originally gave conditional approval in February, extending it four times as Irving battled the takeover.

The merger will nearly double Bank of New York's size, vaulting it close to the top 10 of the nation's largest banking companies. The two banks had a combined \$47.8 billion in assets as of June 30.

Bank of New York's bid, launched Sept. 25, 1987, was the first hostile takeover attempt among U.S. banks.

Algeria drops petrol price rises

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government abandoned plans to raise petrol prices after strong objections from the national assembly, the official news agency APS reported.

Opposition emerged during a stormy debate on the 1989 budget and economic development programme. The agency said the assembly finally adopted both measures with 25 amendments.

The government scrapped petrol price rises in respect of the wishes of the assembly, it said, without saying how much the proposed increase was.

Fears of impending rises sparked panic petrol buying earlier this month during sudden shortages caused by the temporary shutdown of a refinery and strikes in other sectors of the petroleum industry.

The assembly adopted, by 115 votes to 108, an exceptional tax on cars which Finance Minister Sid Ahmad Ghezzal said would finance special measures to provide jobs for the young.

Discontent among young people erupted into widespread rioting in October and the budget and development programme

gave top priority to creating jobs. The riots accelerated radical political and economic reforms proposed by President Chadli Benjedid, reelected unopposed for a third term on Dec. 22.

Chadli aims to introduce more democracy into the monolithic one-party system in force since independence in 1962. The animated budget debate in a previously rubber-stamp assembly was seen as an example of the new political openness.

The 1989 budget totals 121.5 billion dinars (\$18.3 billion) compared to 113 billion (\$17 billion) in 1988, but it is described as an austerity budget designed to limit government spending.

The development programme earmarks 106 billion dinars (\$16

billion), against 89 billion (\$13.7 billion) in 1988, for investment aimed at achieving an economic growth rate of five per cent next year.

The growth rate in 1988 was forecast at 4.1 per cent. Officials say the programme

will create 90,000 jobs and as many new homes, while special efforts will be made to supply the main basic consumer products at affordable prices. Food shortages and soaring prices were among the causes of the riots.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday Dec. 31, 1988
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	78.5	78.4
U.S. dollar	476.0	478.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.9	383.8
Pound Sterling	859.3	863.6	Dutch guilder	238.1	239.3
Deutsche mark	269.0	270.5	Swedish crown	77.4	78.3
Swiss franc	317.0	318.6	Italian lira (for 100)	36.4	36.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	126.2	126.2

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 24, '88 and ending Wednesday Dec. 28, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Banking and financial institutions

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	11638	18853	1.620	1.610	1.000
Petra Bank	18749	43487	2.370	2.290	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	32895	61319	1.870	1.880	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	21014	31883	1.530	1.450	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	12268	15025	1.250	1.230	1.000
Housing Bank	7870	14979	1.900	1.890	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	3291	51847	15.700	15.550	5.000
Arab Bank	8560	1203294	139.500	139.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	23738	64161	2.730	2.650	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	3500	4242	1.230	1.220	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	32820	70314	2.400	2.400	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	71510	40048	0.580	0.550	1.000
National Financial Investments	3250	6611	2.230	2.170	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	11254	9249	0.830	0.830	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	13801	18177	0.880	0.860	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	950	16028	16.800	16.900	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	—

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1525	1601	1.050	1.050	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1000	1310	1.350	1.310	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	3974	4371	1.140	1.080	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	1301	1542	1.210	1.250	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
National Ahliya Insurance	2700	3870	1.420	1.440	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	800	960	1.250	1.300	1.000
Universal Insurance	20250	13812	0.720	0.660	1.000

Services and industries

General Investments	150	216	1.520	1.440	1.000
Inma for Investment and Financial Facilities	2263	1730	0.810	0.680	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	462604	399928	0.790	0.790	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	81853	46065	0.570	0.570	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	61531	20659	0.360	0.330	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	310	318	0.590	0.650	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	41150	6921	0.680	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajeezo	3931	1091	0.780	0.800	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	27466	47770	1.760	1.730	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	375	1774	4.730	4.700	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	14150	13406	0.970	0.970	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	75	218	2.900	2.900	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaah Press, Printing and Publishing	16750	9186	0.590	0.540	1.000
Jordan Dairy	20260	20442	1.020	1.000	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	10206	23566	2.380	2.280	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	114514	157669	1.370	1.420	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	13746	50891	3.750	3.700	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	45486	56599	1.320	1.330	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	2300	10095	4.400	4.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	15200	10488	0.940	0.940	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	42664	57916	1.370	1.360	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	86084	177499	2.090	2.030	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1162	8831	5.050	5.000	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	12813	21114	1.670	1.610	1.000
Chemical Industries	42836	98268	2.330	2.350	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	18950	11943	0.660	0.630	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	11099	23564	2.200	2.080	1.000
National Steel Industries	99410	298080	2.980	2.980	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	221654	541917	2.340	2.450	5.000
General Mining	60	87	1.500	1.450	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4800	41971	8.750	8.600	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	58176	11525	0.210	0.190	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	6250	1942	0.330	0.300	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	6400	9456	1.550	1.470	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	50	37	0.740	0.740	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	8325	12337	1.500	1.470	1.000
Rafin Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	75	263	3.600	3.500	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	142912	130330	0.890	0.920	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	29376	22032	0.740	0.750	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	5000	4300	0.870	0.860	1.000
Jordan Tanning	338	722	2.150	2.100	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	281	5627	20.200	20.200	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	59550	63187	1.060	1.060	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	54711	52509	0.980	0.960	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	56998	160935	2.860	2.810	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	133965	170244	1.300	1.270	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	3000	2950	1.010	0.980	1.000
Grand total	2,348,107	4,496,301			

Cattle, coffee seen as 1989's hot commodities

CHICAGO (AP) — Cattle and coffee are shaping up as the hot commodity markets of 1989. In 1988, it was soybeans and copper.

Sugar futures also could become a powerful bull market if demand from China and the Soviet Union surfaces, but analysts say precious metals appear unlikely to regain their faded lustre — at least in the first quarter of the new year.

Picking commodity price trends is a risky game, one in which the potential for the unexpected can never be underestimated.

In the past year, grain and soybean prices soared on the wings of a disastrous drought and collapsed after a weekend of unforeseen rain; copper futures rocketed to record highs as labour strife shut down mining operations in Peru and platinum prices rallied on what seemed the soundest of footings only to tumble on news of a breakthrough in automobile pollution-control technology. The first catalytic converter that does not use platinum.

With that caveat in mind, here are some predictions for commodity performance in the first quarter of the new year:

Coffee, sugar and cocoa — Precious metals prices will continue to slump early in the first quarter, based on the outlook for

low inflation, rising interest rates and a stronger dollar, said Craig Sloane, an analyst with Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co. in New York.

Grain and soybean traders are watching the weather — which has been fairly dry for both the U.S. winter wheat crop and the Brazilian soybean crop — and looking ahead to the Agriculture Department's Jan. 13 supply-demand report. The report will indicate how many acres farmers intend to plant in 1989 following the severe drought and high prices of 1988.



The Football Magician went out in style by scoring for both sides in his final match.

Khatib bids farewell

CAIRO (R) — Mahmoud Al-Khatib, Egypt's top soccer player for more than a decade, scored twice in his retirement game Friday at a sports festival featuring some of the Arab World's leading footballers.

The relaxed exhibition match between Khatib's Ahli team and their Cairo rivals Zamalek was the highlight of a day of celebrations watched by about 80,000 fans at Cairo stadium.

Khatib, 34, wearing his traditional no. 10 red shirt, cut himself loose from normal soccer rules and scored once for each team. Pigeons were released into the sky as Khatib bid farewell to the spectators and his team-mates.

As tens of thousands of fans cheered and shouted his nickname "bibi bibo," he said in a choking voice over the loudspeaker system: "This is too much for me... thank God a thousand times and thank you all."

In a career extending over more than 17 years, Khatib carved out an unprecedented reputation in Egypt, Africa and the Arab World as a goalscorer and shrewd ball-player. He was chosen as Africa's top player in 1984.

It was relayed direct by satellite to Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where Khatib gained wide popularity among expatriate Egyptians.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lendl takes Coca-Cola classic

SALAMANDER BAY (AP) — World No. 2 Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia breezed to a 7-6 (7-5), 6-1, 7-5 victory over West German Carl-Uwe Steeb Saturday in the final of the Coca-Cola classic exhibition tennis tournament. Liz Smylie won the women's singles final of the inaugural tournament by defeating fellow Australian Anne Minter 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. Lendl, 26, took two hours 10 minutes to wear down Steeb on the synthetic rebound ace court at the Roche racquet resort, a tennis complex 240 kilometres north of Sydney.

U.S. trounces Canada for Spengler trophy

DAVOS (AP) — American defenseman Jim Spengler scored with only three teammates on ice in the second period, spurring USA to an 8-1 victory over team Canada to win its first Spengler Cup hockey tournament Saturday. John Fritsche marked two of the other goals in the first and third periods of the game dominated throughout by the American team, made up of expatriates playing in Europe. Spengler's first and the third period goal by Fritsche were on the power play. It was the first time in the 63-year history of the tournament that a U.S. side won the trophy.

Polish soccer defector suspended

ZURICH (R) — The international football federation (FIFA) said Friday it had suspended Polish midfielder Andrzej Rudy who failed to return home from a trip to Italy with his national squad last month. A spokesman said the 23-year-old, who has been on trial with French champions Monaco, was automatically suspended pending a FIFA committee meeting to examine the case. He said an international transfer needed a certificate from a player's national federation and the Poles had not provided one.

Iraq, UAE army soccer teams draw

BAGHDAD (R) — The national military soccer teams of Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) drew 1-1 Friday in a qualifying match for the finals of the world military soccer cup. Ahmed Daham scored for Iraq in the 40th minute and Khaled Ismael got the UAE's equaliser in the 68th minute. The two teams will play the return match in Abu Dhabi on Jan. 26. The finals will be played in Italy in June. On Dec. 24, the international football federation (FIFA) lifted a four-year ban, imposed because of the dangers of the Iran-Iraq war, on Iraq playing international matches at home.

Cricketer involved in mysterious death

CHANDIGARH (R) — An Indian court has put off issuing an arrest warrant against test cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu following the death of a man after an altercation over a car crash. The Patiala court stayed until Monday an order for 25-year-old Sidhu's arrest after his lawyer argued Saturday that the other driver, who died in hospital following the incident, was already ill and had simply collapsed. The judge agreed not to issue an arrest warrant or to set bail until further medical reports had been obtained. A preliminary post-mortem gave no cause of death. Sidhu, a right-handed batsman, first played for India in 1983 and was a member of the Indian squad which beat New Zealand earlier this month. Police said the cars collided when he and a companion named Rupinder Singh were driving in the Punjab town of Patiala on Tuesday. Sidhu's lawyer, Jasbir Singh Chahal, said the dead man, Punjab Truck-Drivers' Union leader Gurnam Singh, had collapsed without being hit by Sidhu.

Australia in Hopman Cup final

PERTH (AP) — Australia advanced to the final of the inaugural Hopman Cup international teams event Saturday by beating West Germany in a hard fought semi-final at the Burswood superdome in Perth. Led by Pat Cash, Australia notched a 2-1 victory to set up a date with Czechoslovakia in the final Sunday. Cash, who has regained his top form after a four month lay-off due to injury, secured the victory by downing Patrick Kuhnen in the final singles encounter of the three-match tie. Cash, ranked 20 in the world, beat Kuhnen, a member of the successful West German Davis Cup team, 6-3, 7-6 (11-9). The Australian number one and Hana Mandlikova had been forced to come from behind after West German world No. 1 Steffi Graf won the opening singles 6-0, 6-1 over an out-of-form Mandlikova.

Soviets seek to join Formula One

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet auto racers voted unanimously to seek participation in the world formula one circuit, and may produce a race car for it, the official TASS news agency said Friday. Vladimir Konovokov, head of the Soviet Motor Sport Federation, said one or two Soviet drivers could be trained to race Formula One cars and that the Soviet Union would like to host a race on the circuit. "Soviet motor sport fans are anticipating the events."

For second time in a week

Arsenal top league again

LONDON (R) — Arsenal, fired by early strikes from in-form marksman Alan Smith and England midfielder David Rocastle, went back to the top of the English First Division with a 3-0 win at Aston Villa Saturday.

The London club, who headed the table for 24 hours earlier this week, recaptured the lead on goal difference after overnight pace-makers Norwich were held to a 0-0 draw by Middlesbrough.

Leading First Division scorer Smith gave Arsenal the perfect start when he headed home a looping cross from midfielder Michael Thomas in the second minute. It was Smith's 14th league goal of the season.

Rocastle swooped on a weak clearance from goalkeeper Nigel Spink to drive home Arsenal's second goal from the edge of the penalty area after 23 minutes and Perry Groves sealed victory with a late goal.

Millwall, having lost four of their last five games, bounced back with a 1-0 success at Derby which lifted them into third place on goals scored. They are seven points behind Arsenal and Norwich.

Champions Liverpool, fifth, are away to Manchester United in a match to be televised live Sunday.

Norwich, in quest of their first-ever division one title, produced a disappointing display overall against a Middlesbrough side with the worst away record in the division.

Although Norwich marginally had the better of the first half, it was Middlesbrough who dominated after the interval as strikers Bernie Slaven and Peter Davenport tormented the home defence. Yet although they carved out plenty of chances they lacked the finishing touch.

Teddy Sheringham, who has formed a telling partnership with fellow striker Tony Cascarino in Millwall's debut season in the First Division, struck the winner at Derby.

Sheringham broke the deadlock by beating England goalkeeper Peter Shilton in the 77th minute — a goal which brought his joint league haul with Cascarino to 18.

London club Millwall and Everton are level on 30 points and have the same goal difference, leaving Everton in fourth place by virtue of having scored fewer goals.

Kevin Sheedy thrust Everton ahead of Coventry in the ninth

minute but Gary Bannister equalised midway through the first half. Sheedy restored his side's advantage just before the break and Paul Bracewell wrapped up victory with a second-half goal.

Tottenham's multi-million dollar side, bottom of the 20-team division earlier in the season, continued their revival with a 2-0 home win against Newcastle to improve two places to ninth.

Striker Paul Walsh put Tottenham in front after 21 minutes with his first goal for three months and England forward Chris Waddle struck the second nine minutes later.

F.A. Cup holders Wimbledon, whose rugged style of play using the long ball was criticised by Tottenham and ex-Barcelona team chief Terry Venables in a British newspaper this week, responded by trouncing Luton 4-0.

Mystery puck changes result of world title

ANCHORAGE (R) — The unsolved mystery of the second puck left Sweden angry and the Soviet Union tied for first place Friday at the World junior-ice hockey championship.

Referee Steve Piotrowski disallowed a late goal by Sweden after a second puck suddenly appeared on the ice in front of the Soviet Union's net during their game Thursday. The Soviets won 3-2.

Gyorgy Pasztor of Hungary, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) representative at the tournament, had called the special meeting to review the incident.

"The decision of the referee made on the ice cannot be overturned by the directorate," said Pasztor. "The Swedish federation can protest to the IIHF disciplinary committee within 30 days."

Sean Draper, son of Canadian team manager Dave Draper, videotaped the game and was asked to testify.

"The second puck definitely came from a player," said Draper. "It didn't come from off the ice. Two players collided in front of the net and suddenly the puck was there."

Draper said the Soviet players in question were team captain Sergei Federov and defenceman Alexander Godynuk. Federov had just returned from serving a penalty when the incident occurred at 18:32 of the third period.

Three different tapes of the incident were viewed but the results were inconclusive about how the second puck got on the ice, Pasztor said.

"Therefore, the directorate could not take punishment against any player," he said. "It is impossible to determine if the puck comes from any player."

Pasztor said the result would remain the same, adding: "Never in my life have I come across a similar problem."

Zola Budd plans comeback

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd still harbours hope of resurrecting her international career as a British athlete nearly eight months after leaving her adopted nation to return home to South Africa.

The former world cross-country champion turned her back on Britain in May after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) demanded she be banned for a year following her appearance at an athletics meeting in South Africa.

But in a television interview shown here Saturday, Budd said she still hoped to return to live in Britain, wanted to compete internationally again — and admitted she had made mistakes in the past.

Budd said she realised that if she did return to Britain, she would need to conduct her life, "in a more professional way," than before.

"I'd like to run internationally again," she said. "That's my main ambition. That's what I really want to do. I'll never be able to grow old contentedly if I do not fulfil my potential."

"The one thing that has kept me from training in South Africa is that I know what competing in South Africa is like, and what racing internationally is like," she said.

The 22-year-old, now engaged to South African businessman Mike Pietersen, added: "I have made mistakes in the past." Budd said one of her biggest was to spend too much time in South Africa after being granted a British passport in April 1984 which enabled her to run in the Los Angeles Olympics.

"I had a South African coach then and my family were here. That was the biggest reason why I spent so much time here."

"When my athletics collapsed I had nothing to fall back on. My family and many friends were here. That is why I came back," she said from her South African home.

"I am more committed to having a normal life in Britain," she added. "My mother would be upset if I return to Britain. But my fiancé understands and will support me in that. I have made a lot of friends in Britain. I can still count on their support."

But a return to international athletics by Budd would be certain to attract opposition. While running in Britain she was the target of numerous protests and was forced to withdraw

from this year's world cross-country championships after threats of a boycott by black African nations who see her as representing apartheid.

But Budd said in the interview: "I will never denounce apartheid. I am not prepared to say that Zola Budd is against apartheid or the South African government. I have strong views about South African politics but still don't think I need to make a public statement."

Bills look to regain form

NEW YORK (R) — The Buffalo Bills will end a 22-year drought when they host the Houston Oilers Sunday in the National Football League (NFL) playoffs.

The last time Buffalo hosted a football playoff game, the U.S. president was Lyndon Johnson and their quarterback was a future presidential hopeful named Jack Kemp. They lost on New Year's day 1967 to the Kansas City Chiefs 31-7 in the American Football League title game.

On this New Year's day, the Bills entertain the Houston Oilers in an American Football Conference (AFC) battle.

Buffalo will try to recapture their early-season form that helped them win the Eastern division in November. The Bills, 12-4, have struggled since, losing three of their last four.

Houston, 11-6, have won four of their last six including a 24-23 win over the Cleveland Browns in last Saturday's wild card playoff game.

The Oilers, who call the indoor AstroDome their home, will have to contend with the winter cold of Buffalo and the Bills' defence, which is ranked fourth in the league.

Houston rely on a rotating corps of breakaway runners including Mike Rozier, Lorenzo White, Alonzo Highsmith and

Allen Pinkett, who scored twice and set up a third touchdown in the victory over Cleveland.

The Bills try to balance their running game, led by Rookie Thurman Thomas, with the downfield passing of quarterback Jim Kelly, who threw more interceptions (17) than touchdowns (14).

Buffalo's vaunted defence, however, may be hobbled by the absence of three key players. Linebacker Shane Conlan, defensive end Art Still and nose tackle Fred Smerlas are all listed as questionable.

Sunday's National Football Conference (NFC) playoff game has the San Francisco 49ers hosting the Minnesota Vikings.

San Francisco, Western Division champions after posting a 10-6 record, will be seeking revenge against the Vikings, 12-5.

Last year Minnesota knocked the 49ers out of the super bowl tournament with a 36-24 win.

Minnesota have the league's number one defence and are especially tough against the pass. The Vikings picked off three passes, two by safety Joey Browner, in beating the Los Angeles Rams 28-17 in their wild card game last Monday.

Leading the San Francisco attack are quarterback Joe Montana, receiver Jerry Rice and all-purpose back Roger Craig.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A LITTLE LOGIC GOES A LONG WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A 6 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6 4 2
WEST
♠ Q 9 6
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ K
♣ Q J 9 8 3
EAST
♠ K 10 4
♥ Q J 9
♦ Q 8 6 5 2
♣ 10 5

SOUTH
♠ A 8 5
♥ K 8 3
♦ A Q J 10 4
♣ A K

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Card combinations are peculiar animals. How they play often depends on how many tricks you need in the suit.

The auction was routine. After South's 21-22-point two no trump opening, North used the Stayman Convention to check on the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit. When that did not materialize, three no trump became the obvious contract.

West led the top of his broken

club sequence, and declarer won the ace as East made the fine play of the ten. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts to take the diamond finesse. West scooped in the king and persevered with clubs. Declarer cashed the ace of diamonds. When West failed to follow, declarer could score only three diamond tricks and eight tricks in all.

Declarer's play in the diamond suit was correct if he needed five tricks in the suit. Then his only chance would be to find East with a doubler king of diamonds. But declarer needed just four diamond tricks. If the suit split 4-2 or 3-3, no matter what he did would be right. The one troublesome distribution is 5-1. In that event, declarer could collect four tricks only if the king of diamonds was singleton in one hand or the other.

Correct play, therefore, was to ignore the diamond finesse and simply cash the ace. If the king does not drop, declarer must hope that the suit breaks no worse than 4-2. The odds of finding West with a singleton king are slightly more than 1 percent, but even such a minuscule extra chance sometimes yields huge dividends. That was certainly the case here.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm going to sue my mother's doctor for bringing me into this world without my consent!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Any place is better than here

SOEBE

MABLY

REMMAH

HYROTE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: AT

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOUTH FEVER PSYCHE UPLIFT

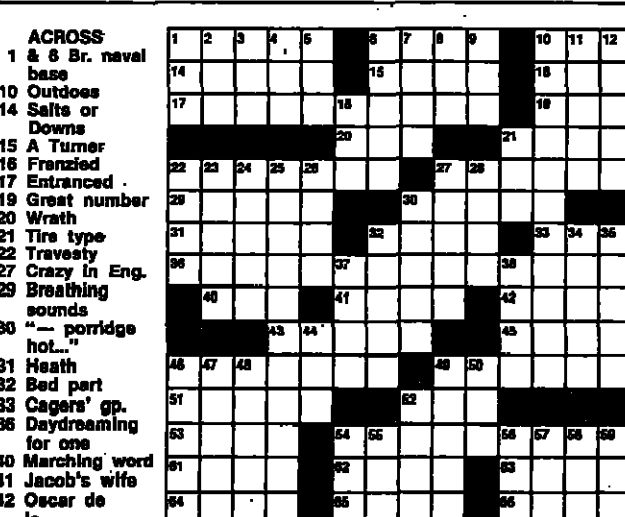
Answer: What the toddler's personality certainly was — "STUFFY"

HOROSCOPE NOT

RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword

by W. Russell McDowell



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. ACROSS

1. 6 Br. naval base

10. Outdoors

14. Salts or

15. A Turner

16. Franzed

17. Entranced

19. Seat number

20. Wrath

21. Tire type

22. Travesty

27. Crazy in Eng.

29. Breathing sounds

30. "— porridge

31. Health

32. Bed part

33. Cagers' gp.

36. Daydreaming

40. Marching word

41. Jacob's wife

42. Oscar de la

43. Yellies

44. Rims

46. Actors

51. Hab.

52. Measures

52. Take to court

53. Equat. pref.

54. Whimales

61. Eng. school

62. Egger

63. Usher's domain

64. Carol

65. Rendezvous

66. Ladies

DOWN

1. Wine word

2. Auditor

3. Serpent

4. Vases

5. "— Blue"

6. Torch

7. Tardy

8. Single flower

9. Roll of bills

10. NASA launch site

11. Clerical vestment

12. Of solid regions

13. Beehives

18. See as a reference

21. Hosp. people

22. Indian

23. Severe

24. Wonderland

25. Taking back in war

26. Delivery letters

27. Seashore

28. Vow

30. Legal actions

32. Silvery fish

34. Toot

35. Rayed

46. Juan or Brita

48. Cleanse

50. Garland

52. Location

44. CHL loop

54. Boulder

56. Bird call

57. Union letters

58. Doctine

59. Muzzahi

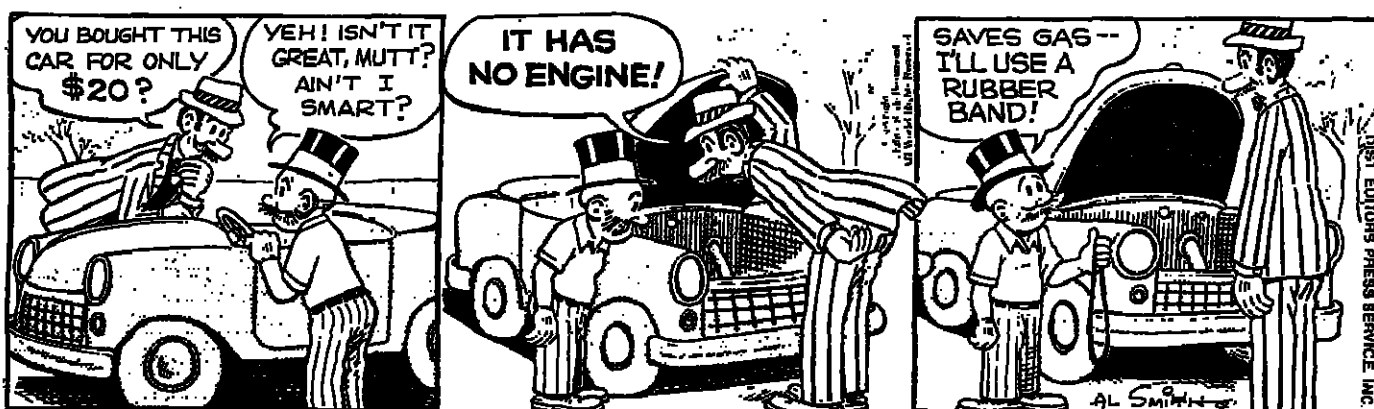
60. Lawmaker

abbr.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Islamabad declaration pledges fight against drugs, terrorism

Asian summit concludes with new resolve

ISLAMABAD (R) — South Asian leaders ended their annual summit Saturday with renewed resolve to fight the drug trade and with a plan to improve the lives of the poor by the year 2000.

The kings, presidents and prime ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) also called for early measures to fight terrorism and for nations to spend less on weapons and more on development.

The so-called "Islamabad Declaration" followed three days of talks in the Pakistani capital and expressed "grave concern" about drug abuse, particularly among young people.

The 13-page document "recognised the need for urgent and effective measures to eradicate this evil" and said 1989 would be the "SAARC year for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking."

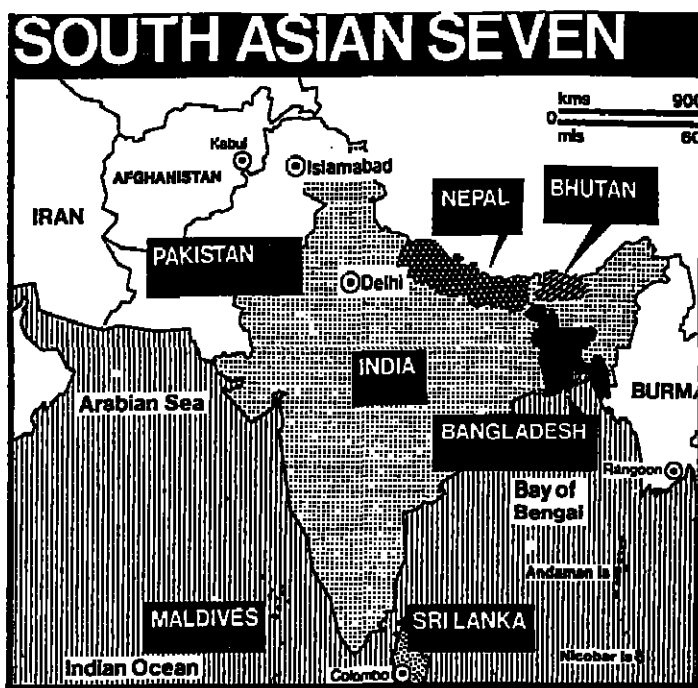
The leaders representing a fifth of the world's population, some of them among the poorest, pledged to alleviate some of the hardships of their people by setting out a project called "SAARC 2000 — a basic needs perspective."

"They were conscious that all South Asian countries faced problems in areas such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection," the declaration said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose landmark private talks with Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto have overshadowed the summit, said the group wanted to move closer to its people.

"Our primary task is making South Asian cooperation a people's movement and implementing programmes which tangibly improve upon the concerns and well-being of our people," he said in a speech at the closing session.

Gandhi, 44, and Bhutto, 35, have injected new drive into the organisation, particularly Bhutto, whose election as the first woman



leader of a Muslim country was mentioned several times by leaders in their speeches.

Bhutto, echoing Gandhi, told a news conference last Saturday that the group was resolved to create more "people-to-people" contact.

"I was pleasantly surprised by how accommodating everyone was in our talks and that they took place in an atmosphere of confidence," she said.

The seven SAARC members — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — called for further action against terrorism after a year in which hundreds were killed in Sri Lankan political violence and nearly 2,500 in a violent campaign by Sikh separatists in India.

It said members should soon adopt measures to comply with the region's convention on the suppression of terrorism which was ratified in August.

They said a rise in military spending was a major constraint on world development and urged "that resources saved through disarmament measures should be diverted in particular to developing countries."

No mention was made in the declaration of nuclear power within the region. On Wednesday, a bid by Pakistan to persuade its neighbours to promise not to build nuclear bombs foundered on Indian objections.

U.S. lauds Soviet progress on rights, considers conference

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has made big improvements in its human rights record, meeting many conditions Washington had set for a proposed human rights conference in Moscow, the State Department said Friday.

Failure to agree on the proposed conference, which the Kremlin wants to hold in 1991, has held up plans for a new round of East-West negotiations on reducing conventional armed forces in Europe.

"We are considering the proposed Moscow conference in light of improvements taking place in Soviet human rights performance and Soviet guarantees of access and openness to anyone who would want to attend such a meeting," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at a news briefing.

She said no decision had been made on whether to accept the conference but many of Washington's conditions — specific demands for improvements in Moscow's human rights performance — had been met.

Oakley highlighted recent improvements as follows:

— More than 600 political prisoners had been freed since November 1986, including "all prisoners known to us who were charged under political or religious articles of the Soviet criminal code."

— Large numbers of Soviet Jews denied permission to emigrate had been cleared to go. Jewish emigration reached 2,400 in November 1988 alone, compared with 914 for all of 1986.

— Emigration rates of other groups, including Armenians and ethnic Germans, had also increased dramatically, she said.

— Jamming of foreign radio

broadcasts to the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations had stopped and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had vowed to reform laws restricting freedom of association and freedom of conscience.

One obstacle that remained was Washington's request to establish a procedure for discussing cases of about 30 people Washington said were political prisoners but that Moscow described as criminals, Oakley said.

"We're close to identifying all the elements of such a process, but there are still some details to work out," she said.

If that matter is settled and President Reagan approves the proposed Moscow human rights conference a key issue will be resolved in the conference on European security in Vienna, which began in November 1986.

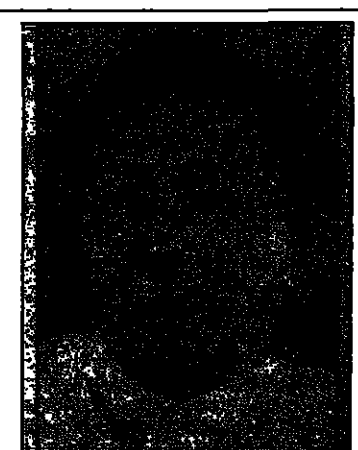
Column 8

Tyson reunite for Christmas eve?

NEW YORK (AP) — Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and his estranged wife, Robin Givens, may have spent the past few months trading insults and lawsuits, but they spent Christmas eve together at a movie, a published report says. The New York Post reported in Friday's editions that the pair sat side-by-side Saturday night in a studio city, California, movie house watching "Hellraiser," a horror movie. The Post said a source familiar with Tyson's daily activities confirmed the movie meeting and said Tyson promoter Don King was opposed to the reunion. "Mike was with her but there won't be a reconciliation," the Post quoted the source as saying. "The Events are bizarre, but this wasn't a wonderful experience for Mike." The Post also said the divorce settlement is almost worked out. The newspaper said the deal would allow each to keep what they have, with Tyson getting the Bernardsville, New Jersey, mansion. Givens, keeping the California house she owned before the marriage, and Givens also keeping about \$1.5 million she took from one of Tyson's bank accounts.

On day of hearing Marcos calls in sick

HONOLULU (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos' second hospital stay in three weeks has not changed plans for a hearing on whether the deposed Philippines President is well enough to travel for a court appearance, a U.S. prosecutor said.



Ferdinand E. Marcos

A hearing is scheduled Jan. 19 to determine whether the 71-year-old ousted leader must appear in a New York court for arraignment on criminal racketeering charges.

"As far as we're concerned, we'll proceed," assistant U.S. attorney Debra Livingston said from New York.

Marcos and his wife, Imelda, are accused of stealing more than \$100 million from the Philippines and stashing it in the United States. Last Oct. 31, Mrs. Marcos travelled to New York and pleaded innocent to the charges.

In Manila, Philippines Vice President Salvador Laurel told a radio station that Mrs. Marcos telephoned him Friday asking that he intercede with Mrs. Aquino to allow the former president to return.

"There are reports that the former president would like to return to the Philippines in the light of his alleged failing health," President Corason Aquino said Saturday.

But she said "considerations of national welfare and interest" caused her to reject the idea.

The Marcoses have been living in exile in Hawaii since a 1986 revolt toppled his government and installed Mrs. Aquino in power.

"For my part, I offer my prayers for his good health," Mrs. Aquino said.

Marcos was admitted Thursday to St. Francis Medical Center. On Friday, the deposed President was in guarded condition after suffering "the second severe episode of congestive heart failure in a month," said hospital spokeswoman Norma Kop.

He was expected to remain in the hospital several days for tests.

Tomas Gomez, the Philippine consul general in Hawaii, charged Marcos was faking illness to gain public sympathy and to stall the case against him.

Earlier this month, Marcos spent nine days in the hospital after complaining of trouble breathing. His doctors said Marcos suffers from congestive heart failure, which means the heart is unable to pump the amount of blood required by the body.

A court-appointed doctor examined Marcos Oct. 31 and reported that Marcos was fit enough to travel to New York although he suffers from a number of ailments.

African-Chinese feud shows no let-up

NANKING (Agencies) — More than 130 foreign students, mostly African, refused to speak to Chinese authorities Saturday after guesstimate following racial clashes.

Liang Ruiju, head of Hehai University in Nanking, told journalists the guesstimate had become an "independent kingdom" and called on the government to deal with it.

"The students have already passed the boundaries of legality. Action should be taken," he said.

The students are refusing to let Chinese inside the building or to speak with Chinese officials who say they intend to punish nine alleged ringleaders of the Dec. 24 violence.

Thirteen people were injured in a campus riot after a dance. Police prevented the students from leaving Nanking by rail last Monday night and took them to the guesstimate, part of a chemical fibre plant in Xibei, two hours' drive outside the city, where they have been under guard since.

Bourhane, an electronics student from the Comoro Islands and one of a handful permitted to leave the guesstimate, said the students would not agree to Chinese demands that the nine alleged ringleaders be separated from them.

He said they had formed a committee, with representatives from each of their countries: "They will not talk to the Chinese, who lied. They will talk only to their embassies."

The students are living two to five to a room and their only contact with the outside world is a few portable radios.

He said that inadequate command of Chinese language meant most African students could not follow their courses. "I study on my own with books ordered from France," Bourhane said.

A European resident of Nanking said most African students did the same.

Bourhane said it would be better for African students not to come to China. "We are here for diplomatic and political reasons to do with our governments... the diploma is not important."

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted an education official as saying Peking gave scholarships to most of the 1,500 African students in China, each worth around three times the expense of educating a Chinese student. China did so because of its affinity with the Third World, he said.

Yazov criticises performance of Soviet soldiers in quake relief

MOSCOW (R) — Some Soviet soldiers helping in earthquake relief operations in Armenia performed badly and a number avoided tasks in dangerous areas, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov was quoted as saying Friday.

The Communist Party spokesman sharply criticised officials organising food distribution. It said they would be brought to personal account at a hearing next week to be broadcast on television.

Soviet leaders and the press have been highly critical of relief efforts following the Dec. 7 quake, which according to official estimates killed at least 24,000 people and as many as 55,000. Half a million people were made homeless and damage has been estimated at 8.5 billion roubles (\$14 billion).

Most criticism has centred on local officials' slow reaction to the disaster and the poor use of equipment dispatched from throughout the Soviet Union and dozens of foreign countries.

But Yazov's remarks, in an interview with TASS news agency, were the most sweeping official charges against some of the 23,000 soldiers dispatched to the stricken areas.

"We must also acknowledge that not all commanders and political workers performed at their best at this difficult time. Some were slow in taking decisions and

showed confusion," he said.

The minister said some officers were unable to tackle post-disaster civil defence tasks and use modern equipment "despite being designated for those very actions in extreme circumstances."

Yazov said men called up on reserve were particularly "unprepared for self-sacrificing work. There were even individual cases in which they dodged tasks in dangerous zones."

He urged authorities to make quick improvements to the country's civil defence system and "the creation within it of mobile, well-trained and equipped military and non-military units."

Thief takes off with \$2.5m in Japan robbery

TOKYO (AP) — A man jumped into a truck delivering cash to a bank in Kobe and drove off Friday with about \$2.54 million in Japan's police-said cash robbery.

Police said, Hyogo prefectural police said a masked man leaped into the driver's seat of the van, parked in front of Taiyoku Bank Bank's Suma branch in western Japan, while attendants were preparing to deliver cash and bank notes to the bank. "The driver stepped out of the car for a second to close the rear door of the truck and the man jumped in and started the engine," a police official said. "When the driver heard the sound of the engine, he rushed to the driver's seat and grabbed the steering wheel, but the robber pushed him back and drove away," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

New Pan Am crash theories surface

FRANKFURT (R) — The bomb which destroyed the Pan Am jetliner may have been in the luggage of an unwitting passenger, probably an American, travelling from Frankfurt, a West German daily said Saturday.

The Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper, in an uncorroborated report, said West German investigators had established that all 49 passengers who boarded a connecting Boeing 727 from Frankfurt later joined the ill-fated Pan Am Boeing 747.

All but three of them were American, it said. Another possibility, it added, was that baggage handlers were bribed to smuggle a bomb on board.

Two weeks before the crash, a telephone caller warned the U.S. embassy in Frankfurt of a bomb attack might be carried out against a Pan Am flight from Frankfurt to the United States.

The London Times newspaper said Saturday investigators were now certain that luggage containing the explosive device was transferred from the 727 in London to the forward cargo hold of the 747.

The Jumbo jet blew up less than an hour after leaving London's Heathrow airport Dec. 21.

A spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office, Alexander Prechtel, told Reuters the authorities had no evidence to link the attack with Frankfurt airport or the arrest in October of 13 suspected Palestinians.

"We have no information to substantiate the (Times) report," he said. The possible use of Frankfurt airport by the bombers was "one of several possibilities" all of which were being investigated, he added.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia rejoins U.N. Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Malaysia, which last served on the Security Council in 1965, becomes a member again Jan. 1 and its U.N. representative, Ambassador Razali Ismail, immediately takes over as president of the 15-nation body. The presidency rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical order of the delegations and Malaysia succeeds Japan, which held the post during December. Malaysia is one of five new council members elected by the General Assembly last October for two-year terms beginning on Jan. 1. The others are Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia and Finland. They replace Argentina, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Zambia whose terms expire at the end of 1988. The other five non-permanent members, who remain on the council during 1989, are Algeria, Brazil, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

Brazilian authorities exhume ecologist's body

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazilian authorities have exhumed the body of murdered ecologist campaigner Francisco Mendes to examine his gunshot wounds, the justice ministry said Friday. The body was exhumed in the Amazonian town of Xapuri Thursday, ministry Secretary General Luis Fernando Eichenberg said. Mendes, a 44-year-old rubber tapper now acclaimed as a martyr for his campaign to save the Amazon forests, was shot dead at his home Dec. 22. More than 70 police are searching for the two main suspects in the case, cattle ranchers Darli and Alvarino Alves da Silva.

Raisa Gorbachev visits quake children

MOSCOW (R) — Raisa Gorbachev donned a white smock Friday and visited children flown to Moscow for hospital treatment for injuries they received in this month's devastating earthquake in Armenia. The wife of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was shown on television news comforting children in their hospital beds. Each young victim was given a new year present — a model of one of the Kremlin towers filled with sweets. Raisa Gorbachev bent down to one heavily bandaged teenager and whispered to him: "There's no need to worry now. You're a man now and you have to take it like a man." She was also seen talking to some of the children's relatives. "We have taken your tragedy as the tragedy of all our people," she told one elderly woman. "We will live through this tragedy to the very end with you."

Kurds protest expulsion order

HELSINKI (AP) — Finnish authorities, bowing to pressure from humanitarian groups, agreed to reconsider an expulsion order against eight Turkish Kurds seeking political asylum, newspapers reported Friday. The case threatened to stoke a sharp public debate on the issue of refugees in Finland, which has one of the strictest immigration policies in Europe. The Finns, a people of 4.9 million in a country the size of Britain, set an annual quota of 300 refugees from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, raising it earlier this year from 200. In addition, they granted political asylum to four cases out of 60 applicants this year. Eleven were given residence permits, 13 cases were pending and the rest were rejected or withdrawn, the aliens office said.

Feds establish rap sheet for doctors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is creating a nationwide computer record of malpractice suits and disciplinary actions against doctors and dentists in a bid to prevent their escape from professional rap sheets by changing localities. "No longer will incompetent health professionals be enabled to move from hospital to hospital or from state to state while withholding adverse information," said Dr. Otis R. Bowen, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Bowen commented at a news conference Friday to announce the award of a five-year, \$15.9-million contract to the Unisys Corporation to operate the computer bank. The project was authorised by Congress in 1986.

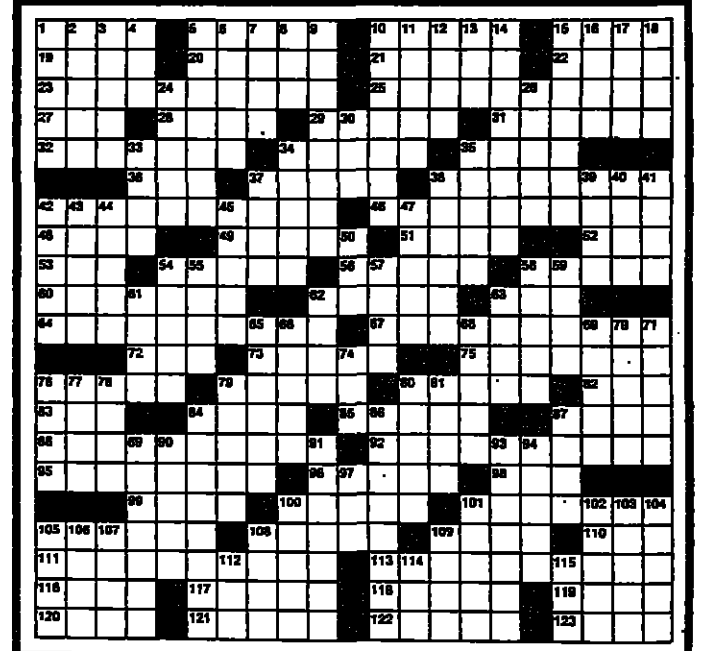
Contras agree to resume peace talks

MIAMI (R) — Contra leaders said Friday they were dropping objections to holding a new round of peace talks with Nicaragua's ruling Sandinista Party in Washington and suggested a Jan. 25 meeting date. Adolfo Calero said he and other leaders of the movement, who had refused to hold further talks in either Washington or Managua as demanded by the Sandinistas, made the concession because "the climate for talks has improved." He said the Nicaraguan rebels were sending a letter to the Foreign Ministry in Managua immediately suggesting the meetings be held at the Washington headquarters of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkensson

- WRAP-UP**
Bernice Gordon
- ACROSS**
- 1 Fashion
 - 2 Rose or lilac
 - 3 Lovers out
 - 4 Ludwig or
 - 5 20th century
 - 6 Martin time
 - 7 Type of surgeon
 - 8 Stained Hindu
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 - 5 Like a dunce cap
 - 6 The hills
 - 7 Edges
 - 8 Sailing
 - 9 Fix up
 - 10 Sheathed
 - 11 Intended Hindu
 - 12 Sort of land
 - 13 Curved line
 - 14 Black sea
 - 15 Country war
 - 16 Big hand
 - 17 "I" — man with
 - 18 Seal a.p.
 - 19 Seamen
 - 20 Spruce-like plant
 - 21 Show in music
 - 22 Br. lions
 - 23 Cyrene feature
 - 24 Pale
 - 25 Love of
 - 26 God of fire
 - 27 Sea duck
 - 28 Appellation
 - 29 Goli
 - 30 Ruses, negative
 - 31 Coined in 1st
 - 32 Lisa's sister
 - 33 Name in victim
 - 34 Immigrant lion
 - 35 Tokyo
 - 36 Turf, president
 - 37 Carfax
 - 38 Manner
 - 39 Robert or Alan
 - 40 Dobbin's donor
 - 41 Seemlich
 - 42 Actor Sean
 - 43 After P.
 - 44 Harp relative
 - 45 Isle of exile
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 - 97 Megalithic
 - 98 Sheep shaver
 - 99 In a way of
 - 100 Offshooters

- CRYPTOGRAMS**
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NXTUEQ DOGGERY VAR SIFQSNV DTSBUK
ART ANTY PITH.
—By Lois H. Jones
2. SDOLACDCO DC ALECTRIKAVIN BUZZRT
MESS MIRBRI, PIRUADCO DPR JIRUN
KVEZ.
—By Barbara J. Rags
3. XJ CYXW AIALJXVE GXFVISO IYS VO BSF
EYLEW JI IBSFAICS TSYIGPIQVX IF OJXFI
JI STPVQVJ VJ.
—By Cordes Miller
4. GTRURFL EFIGSUF ECHING EFFORTS TSOL
CWOG FH EWTB ERINE.
—By Ed Haddad

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